

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) whose Cleveland office is hosting its 4th Annual Banquet and Fundraiser on Sunday, April 30, 2006. CAIR is a non-profit, grassroots civil rights and advocacy group and the nation's largest Islamic civil liberties organization, with regional offices nationwide and in Canada. Since its establishment in 1994, CAIR has worked to promote a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America. Through media relations, lobbying, education and advocacy, CAIR puts forth an Islamic perspective to ensure the Muslim voice is represented.

Through its promotion of civil rights, research, education, conferences, seminars, internships, and public events such as the Cleveland chapter's 4th annual banquet, CAIR seeks to empower the American Muslim community and encourage its participation in political and social activism.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that CAIR is working nationwide and locally in the Greater Cleveland community to promote civil rights, civil liberties, and free speech and is able to educate the public about these issues by bringing such an outstanding program to the people of Northeast Ohio for their 4th annual banquet.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the goals and ideals set forth by the 2006 National Crime Victims' Rights Week taking place April 23 through April 29. The efforts to raise public awareness for—and participation in—the rights and concerns of crime victims in the United States is the noteworthy message advocated by Victims' Rights Week, whose theme this year is "Victims' Rights: Strength in Unity."

Crime is an indiscriminant crisis that impacts all constituencies. This week is one in which all people are encouraged to strengthen the voice of those victims and survivors of crime through involvement in crime prevention, victim assistance, and community safety.

It is not only through my tenure as a former law enforcement officer that I know firsthand the tragedies of crime, but it is also through the knowledge and experiences that people have shared with me.

A member of my staff has been affected by the consequences of crime very recently. Her

nieces were victims of a domestic dispute that escalated into an appalling scenario. The criminal shot both his wife and six-year-old daughter in the head before failing in his suicide attempt. He was found guilty of attempted capital murder, injury to a child, and aggravated assault.

The long-term repercussions from this horrifying episode will be felt by all family members for the rest of their lives. The mother and child will live their entire lives with the physical disabilities they incurred, as well as the psychological trauma. The daughter suffers from seizures, and the mother has lost vision in one eye, which remains permanently closed.

To help families and victims through such difficult moments, I am proud to support the observance of Victims' Rights Week, which acknowledges crime victims and upholds their rights. The encouragement of public participation promoted by the Victims' Rights movement will support crime victims and address the impact of crime on communities with a single voice.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me and my fellow Victims' Rights Caucus colleagues today in honoring the observance of this noble cause—which through its advocacy for victims' justice, increased public awareness, and community collaboration has revolutionized American criminal jurisprudence.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MICHAEL J. CONRAD, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the long and distinguished career of Colonel Michael J. Conrad, Jr., who is retiring after serving our Nation's military with distinction for 27 years.

Colonel Conrad received a Bachelor of Science degree from West Point, a Masters of Engineering degree in construction management from the University of Florida, and a Masters of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Airborne School, Ranger School, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Army Command and General Staff College, the Joint and Combined Staff Officer School, and the U.S. Army War College.

Colonel Conrad has served in many critical positions as an Army Engineer. His Corps of Engineer assignments included serving as a research coordinator at the Corps' Information Technology Laboratory, Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi, and as Deputy Area Engineer and Deputy District Engineer with the New Orleans District. He then served as a joint staff officer with the United States Forces Japan at Yokota Air Base, Japan. He served 2 years at the U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Mis-

souri, as the Director of Instruction and the Director of Training. Colonel Conrad deployed to Iraq in 2003 for 6 months and led a multi-functional Corps of Engineers team supporting the United States Agency for International Development. His outstanding service culminated as the Chief of the Programs Division, Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Colonel Michael J. Conrad, Jr., for his service to the United States and will wish him and his family all the best in the days ahead.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LEWIS GOLUB

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a distinguished constituent of the 20th District of New York; Mr. Lewis Golub. Mr. Golub's tireless contributions to his business, employees, and community are outstanding and have resulted in the formation of a successful company that has benefited many.

Over the past 50 years, Lewis Golub has worked vigorously to develop and support the Golub Corporation/Price Chopper Supermarkets, a large and extremely successful supermarket chain in Northern New York. Yet, Mr. Golub does not limit his efforts to his business. As the Regional Vice Chair of the New York State Business Council, an active member of the Board of Directors of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, the Empire State College, and the Food Marketing Institute, Mr. Golub plays a pivotal role in many other facets of the community, extending himself to the services of his fellow neighbors. In addition, Mr. Golub has received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the New York Chiefs of Police, the Arthritis Foundation's Accolade for Community Service, and the Community Service Award from the Interfaith Community of Schenectady, New York. These many awards reflect Mr. Golub's strong commitment to his community. He has distinguished himself through his financial support for his community; there are few who possess the same passion.

Mr. Golub has received numerous awards including, the United Way's CEO of the Year Award and the John J. O'Connor Excellence in Leadership Award, as well as the American Marketing Association's Marketer of the Year Award, the New York Capital District Business Review's Executive of the Year Award, and the Capital Region Business Hall of Fame Award, among others. The Golub Corporation/Price Chopper Supermarkets remain a sturdy pillar of business in the Upstate Region of New York.

Mr. Golub's charitable spirit is evident in every aspect of his life. It is through his tenacious character and generous qualities that

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the community enjoys the services of Mr. Golub. Mr. Speaker, please join me as I recognize the significant life accomplishments of Mr. Lewis Golub and wish him all the best in his bright future. We can all take a chapter from his life and benefit from his example. My Congressional District is better served through the commitment to excellence Mr. Golub demonstrates and our communities are fortunate to call him a neighbor and friend.

THE VOLUME THAT'S MAKING A
LOUD NOISE: PEOPLE FLOCK TO
HEAR ABOUT 'COVENANT'

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Tavis Smiley for his publication of a remarkable analysis of the status of Black America, "The Covenant With Black America". Smiley, an instrumental American author, political commentator, and radio talk show host has contributed a great deal to the discussion on the goals of African Americans from fair minimum wage increases to equal and accessible healthcare. Smiley is determined to bring the plight of Blacks to the forefront of the national agenda by convincing African American leaders to embrace it. He introduced the covenant at a leadership conference in Atlanta and it appears to be succeeding in taking the covenant to other cities.

His Covenant with Black America is now number one on the Washington Post best seller list and number two on the New York Times best seller list, an indication of a significant audience for its proposals which is being augmented by the taking of the proposals to audiences in the Black community such as the Shiloh Baptist Church in downtown Washington.

The covenant includes pieces from an array of notable contemporary African Americans including former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher; Marian Wright Edelman, Angela Glover Blackwell, and Cornel West. The book has African Americans all across the country gathering and discussing Black America as was done with Smiley's presentation at Shiloh Baptist Church in downtown Washington on Thursday, April 7, 2006. Smiley has made many think about their status as he has asked the very pertinent question, "Can we go from moment to momentum to movement?"

Also notable about "The Covenant" is that it is No. 1 on the Washington Post's paperback nonfiction bestseller list. This alone indicates that there are many who are interested in engaging in the discussion of the future of Black America. More than 200,000 copies have been sold since it was published less than two months ago.

I enter into the RECORD an article from the Washington Post entitled "The Volume That's Making a Loud Noise" for the acknowledgment and support of a book with such a profound and straightforward method for tackling the vital issues within the Black community. Now is the time for revitalization in those communities across this nation and the Black community must rise to the occasion.

[From The Washington Post, Apr. 7, 2006]
THE VOLUME THAT'S MAKING A LOUD NOISE: PEOPLE
FLOCK TO HEAR ABOUT 'COVENANT'

(By Linton Weeks)

When a book becomes a collection of people, not just pages, we sit up and pay attention.

"The Covenant With Black America," a volume of essays pulled together by omnimedia personality Tavis Smiley, may be doing just that. At No. 1 on The Washington Post's paperback nonfiction best-seller list, "Covenant" is the book of the moment. It's been on the list for four weeks. And it is No. 2 on the upcoming New York Times paperback nonfiction list.

All across the country, many black Americans are gathering, mostly in churches, to hear Smiley spread his gospel of response and responsibility and to buy a bunch of books. The publisher, Third World Press, reports that more than 200,000 copies have sold—at \$12 apiece—since "Covenant" was published less than two months ago.

In downtown Washington last night, Smiley's rousing presentation from the lectern of Shiloh Baptist Church is greeted with scores of amens and several standing ovations. Brandishing a copy, he says, "Make black America better, you make all America better."

Funny and self-effacing, Smiley asks the thousand or so people in the pews, "Can we go from moment to momentum to movement?"

The volume could also be titled "The Purpose Driven Community."

"Covenant" is a collection of pieces by notable contemporary African Americans, including former U.S. surgeon general David Satcher; Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund; Angela Glover Blackwell, founder of the think tank PolicyLink; and Cornel West, who teaches religion at Princeton University.

The 250-plus-page book is divided into 10 core chapters, each plumbing a single subject, such as the right to health care, the unequal justice system or the racial digital divide. Arguments are buttressed with statistics and calls to personal and political action. For example, in the chapter on accessing economic prosperity, the book encourages elected officials to "increase the minimum wage to a living wage" and urges individuals to "open and maintain a savings account, no matter what your family's income is."

Smiley, who has written a handful of books and is a regular on public television, is proud that "Covenant" has sold mostly through the traditional African American grapevines of church meetings, talk radio and word of mouth. And that he has bypassed the Great American Buzzmaking Machine.

"We haven't been on 'Oprah!'" he shouts to the crowd. "We haven't been on the 'Today' show! And we haven't been on NPR! That's all black folks," he says about the book's phenomenal rise on the bestseller lists. "Black folks did this."

He uses the success of his book to illustrate the economic and political might of the African American community. He also points out that he chose Third World Press in Chicago, an influential African American publishing house founded in 1967, to publish his book.

"It's selling so fast we can't keep up with demand," says Bennett J. Johnson, vice president of Third World.

Johnson says one of his friends describes the book as "an oasis in the desert" because it is the rare volume that "allows black Americans to view their own interests in an organized fashion, and it provides white America with an articulated version of what black America wants."

This will be "a wedge book," Johnson predicts, that will make book buyers and the publishing industry look at black publishers and writers in a different light.

"Covenant," he adds, "is not a bible. It's not 100 percent right on each issue. But it starts a dialogue."

The book does touch a certain chord with some people. Pamela Johnson, 38, of Upper Marlboro, for instance, who is sitting near an aisle in the church. She heard Smiley talking about his ideas on the Tom Joyner morning radio show. African Americans have to "understand what we have to do to improve our situations," Johnson says. An industrial engineer and a mathematics professor at Strayer University, she is especially interested in the book's emphasis on establishing an equitable system of public education.

Edelman, who is onstage with Smiley, wrote the book's statement of purpose. "Covenant," she writes, "calls on parents, educators, preachers, social service providers, community leaders, and policy-makers to act now and create a brighter future for our children."

The book grew out of several annual State of the Black Union symposiums that Smiley conducted. Contributor Blackwell explains from her home in California that Smiley wanted to take the conversations from those confabs "and harness the intellectual power and the energy."

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST
BETTY FRIEDAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Betty Friedan, devoted social activist and writer, whose best-seller served to greatly benefit the women's movement. Ms. Friedan was a beloved sister, mother, grandmother, friend and mentor to many, whose activism, talent, and dedication changed the lives of women and sparked one of America's greatest social movements.

After graduating summa cum laude from Smith College in 1942, Ms. Friedan studied psychology for a year at the University of California at Berkeley. Frustrated with inequality in the workplace and women's accepted role as wife and mother, Ms. Friedan directed her passion and energy into her 1963 bestseller "The Feminine Mystique." Her commanding voice and passionate words opened the minds of women and led to substantial positive changes to define their status.

In 1966, Ms. Friedan co-founded the U.S. National Organization for Women, and became its first president. Her strong influence, beliefs, and wisdom laid the foundation for the organization that has grown exponentially to the size it is today. In addition to her vital work with NOW, she was essential in advancing women's rights to privacy, choice, and political participation. In 1979 she led an effort which resulted in women gaining half the delegate strength at the Democratic Party's nominating convention.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues please join me in honor and remembrance of Betty Friedan, whose enthusiasm, devotion, and ability to affect the world with her writing, has served to improve the status and lives of women everywhere. I extend my deepest condolences to

her family members and many friends. Betty Friedan's unwavering commitment to change and equality has served to make a difference within the lives of countless individuals, and on history itself. Betty Friedan's legacy of service and revolution will be honored and remembered for all time.

RETIREMENT OF SERGEANT
MAJOR MICHAEL DUDLEY, USA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will join me today to pay tribute to an exceptional patriot and Non-Commissioned Officer in the United States Army, Sergeant Major Michael Roy Dudley, upon his retirement from active military service.

Sergeant Major Dudley's remarkable career spans over 31 years in the United States Army culminating with his appointment to Principal Announcer of The United States Army Band, "Pershing's Own" and Non-commissioned Officer-in-Charge of the United States Army Chorale.

He was also a producer, performer and announcer for numerous inaugural events for Presidents Carter, Reagan, G.H.W. Bush and Clinton. He was the announcer for the nationally televised September 11 Pentagon Memorial Services on September 11, 2002; internment of the Unknown Soldier from Viet Nam at Arlington National Cemetery; narrative soloist with the Boston Pops Orchestra and the Penn Woods Festival Orchestra at Penn State University for the 2000 National Governors' Conference performing Aaron Copland's "A Lincoln Portrait."

He has been the featured announcer and soloist numerous times for The United States Army Band's concerts at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York City from 1993 to the present. Sergeant Major Dudley's talent and professionalism has been instrumental in the flawless performance of these international events.

Other significant performances by Sergeant Major Dudley include: The White House performance for the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel; featured vocal soloist for Gerald Ford and Friends Gala in Vail, Colorado; White House State Dinners and Christmas receptions (1975-present); numerous performances for the Kennedy Center Honors Program and the July 4, 1976 Bicentennial Concert of the United States with Johnny Cash on the grounds of the Washington Monument.

Sergeant Major Dudley has truly represented The United States Army and The United States of America in an exemplary manner which was quintessential to the overwhelming success of these very important events in the history of our nation. This soldier is the recipient of the United States Armed Forces Legion of Merit award for exceptionally meritorious conduct in his performance of outstanding service to this country.

He has established a renowned reputation both nationally and globally as a musical ambassador of goodwill. I ask my colleagues to join me today to thank Sergeant Major Dudley, his wife, Mary Lou, and his entire family for

the commitment, sacrifice, and contribution that they have made throughout his honorable military career.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
JOHN J. POLLARD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of Representatives of the passing of my friend, the Honorable John J. Pollard of Lexington, Missouri. He was 96.

Judge Pollard was born on November 14, 1909, in Lexington, Missouri. After he graduated from Lexington High School in 1928, Judge Pollard worked various odd jobs. Judge Pollard was offered a special commission as deputy constable in 1931 and began, like his father before him, a lifelong career in law enforcement. In 1934, he was appointed deputy sheriff, designated the court bailiff, and moonlighted as a city fireman.

Judge Pollard married Genevieve Bray on January 11, 1936. That same year, Judge Pollard first campaigned for public office and was elected Constable. Judge Pollard was elected Constable twice more; in 1938 and again in 1940. He also continued as deputy sheriff until 1940.

In the fall of 1940, a conversation with Senator Harry S. Truman from Independence, Missouri, led to a position as one of the very first members of a security force being established at the new Lake City Ordinance Plant. Shortly after Judge Pollard was hired as a dispatcher and firearms inspector, war was declared. During World War II, the ammunition plant would reach a high of 23,000 employees, 600 of whom were on the security force. After World War II officially ended on September 2, 1945, Judge Pollard received a special "Certificate of Meritorious Conduct" from the United States Army, recognizing his service to the war effort.

Judge Pollard was the only security man kept on staff after the Lake City Ordinance Plant closed a month after the war. When the plant reopened in 1949, Judge Pollard was made Chief of Security. When the Korean Conflict began in 1950, the plant once again aided in the war effort and Judge Pollard, as head of security, held the military rank equivalent of Colonel. Before retiring in 1974, Judge Pollard attended a 40-hour course in shooting at the FBI Academy; completed the MP School of the Army at Fort Gordon, Georgia; and graduated from the U.S. Army Intelligence School. He also took courses in industrial security management, effective speaking, human relations, communications, and job relations.

In 1978, Judge Pollard was elected to the office of Municipal Judge of Lexington. When the legal qualifications to hold the office changed a year later, he was in the first group of judges to take the Supreme Court's mandatory test for Municipal Judges. His background in law enforcement served him well and he easily passed the test. He was held in high esteem by the local lawyers and was invited to become an ex-officio member of the Lafayette County Bar, a high honor for a non-lawyer. Judge Pollard resigned from office on May 30,

1989, having served for eleven years and one month.

Mr. Speaker, Judge John J. Pollard was more than a civil servant, he was a true friend. He is survived by his son Jack Pollard; Jack's wife Beth; one brother, Dale Pollard; and two grandchildren. He will be missed and I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his loved ones.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN J. SANVIDGE

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and pay tribute to the late John J. Sanvidge, a dedicated and loyal public servant, and one of my outstanding constituents from the 20th District of New York. His professional and personal achievements are numerous and varied, and have positively shaped the lives of many in my District.

Throughout his life John worked to protect the people of his community and nation. He courageously defended our country in the European Theatre of World War II, while serving in the U.S. Navy. Locally, he was an advocate for the citizens of the 20th District through his service as Commissioner of Public Safety for the city of Troy, and while serving as Director of Civil Defense for Rensselaer County. John also worked to help those less fortunate. For over 50 years, the John J. Sanvidge Funeral Home, Inc., founded by John, has helped countless citizens of Rensselaer, Albany, and Saratoga counties cope with some of the most difficult times in their life. He served as chairman of the Rensselaer County Muscular Dystrophy Association Drive and was influential in the first Jerry Lewis Telethon in New York City. John was an active member of his community as a member of the CSEA, Veteran of Foreign Affairs Post 8764, the Tibbits Cadets of Troy and the American Legion.

It is my privilege to honor such a dedicated member of my district. The selfless work of individuals like John Sanvidge constitutes the foundation of good citizenship and embodies true American values. The residents of my district have benefited from the efforts and achievements of John J. Sanvidge. I thank him for his contribution to our community and our Nation.

REVEREND AL'S NEW FLOCK—
SHARPTON NURTURES UP-AND-
COMING ACTIVISTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Reverend Al Sharpton for his continued encouragement of black youths in America to rise up and join the struggle against poverty, low performing schools, corruption and other ills that plague many of our inner cities across this nation. The Reverend believes that the time is now for new blood

with new and exciting ideas to speak up and become participants in the issues that directly influence their livelihood.

Sharpton is trying to train today's inner city youth on how to become leaders just as he was trained so many years ago. Reverend Al Sharpton was best known as the "Wonder Boy" in his youth. He was also known as the one who began delivering sermons at the Washington Temple Church in Brooklyn as a first-grader. Later at age 10, Sharpton preached a sermon before 10,000 people at the World's Fair. During this time, Sharpton was a teenager and had attracted the attention of the late Representative Adam Clayton Powell becoming part of the Harlem congressman's entourage.

Sharpton held his annual National Action Network meeting in New York this past week and in attendance were many of his up-and-comers who will likely be running cities and other municipalities along with Congress before long. The list includes Yaphet El-Amin who became the first female Muslim to hold state office in Missouri when she was elected in 2002. There is also Alicia Reece, a member in Sharpton's organization who is considered a rising star, and then there is the Reverend Jarrett Maupin, a 17 year-old from Phoenix, Arizona who is now Sharpton's youth director. Maupin made an unsuccessful bid for the Phoenix City Council, yet he retains the spirit and desire to run for his school board this year.

I enter into the RECORD an article published in the New York Daily News on Friday April 7, 2006 entitled, "Reverend Al's new flock", for highlighting the importance of implementing forms of community mentoring. As members of the old guard grow older, the time is now for the youth in our nation to stand up as we hand them their futures. More people need to take the time to do the same and encourage the leaders of tomorrow to rightfully take their place in society.

REVEREND AL'S NEW FLOCK
(By Errol Louis)

Here in New York, the Rev. Al Sharpton tends to be seen as a perennial political outsider and gadfly—his detractors inevitably dismiss him as a publicity-seeking hustler—but that cynical, out-of-date view ignores the impressive political network Sharpton has diligently been building from coast to coast.

In a dozen or so black communities where elders tend to monopolize leadership of the churches, schools, civic groups, political clubs and other key institutions, Sharpton has been busy grooming young, ambitious candidates for office.

By playing the role of mentor, promoter and fund-raiser, Sharpton does what many shortsighted black politicians refuse to do: actively encourage youngsters to join the struggle against poverty, broken schools, corruption and other inner-city ills.

Sharpton's approach should be copied by pols in communities where new blood and new ideas are desperately needed.

A batch of hopefuls from Generation Al—many of whom were in New York City this week for the annual meeting of Sharpton's National Action Network—has been particularly active lately. The list includes Yaphet El-Amin, a 35-year-old from St. Louis who became the first female Muslim to hold state office in Missouri when voters elected her to the legislature in 2002. She is running for state Senate this year.

Alicia Reece, an officer in Sharpton's organization who served as vice mayor of Cin-

cinnati and lost a race for mayor last year, is considered a rising star. Brooklyn's own Kirsten Foy, one of Sharpton's staff members, is running for a district leadership in Crown Heights this fall.

And then there's the Rev. Jarrett Maupin, Sharpton's national youth director.

The 17-year-old from Phoenix, a college freshman who has been preaching since he was 10, is so much a Sharpton clone that he wears his hair in the same trademark conked-out style.

"I had my hair like this before I met Rev. Sharpton, but after I met him I decided to keep it," says Maupin. "It's a power look."

Maupin made an unsuccessful bid for the Phoenix City Council last year and plans to mount a run for school board this year.

Sharpton not only holds fund-raisers and stumps for his proteges, he freely connects them to political heavy-hitters. This morning, for instance, they will be meeting with Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), who is set to give a breakfast talk to Sharpton's group.

The reverend's interest in grooming young leaders dates to his own background as the Wonder Boy, a prodigy who began delivering sermons in Brooklyn's Washington Temple Church as a first-grader.

At age 10, Sharpton preached a sermon before 10,000 at the World's Fair. By the time he was a teenager, Sharpton had attracted the attention of the late Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, becoming part of the Harlem congressman's entourage. Whenever Powell came to town, he'd ask for "the kid."

Sharpton's decision to pass along the sort of mentoring he received stands in stark contrast to the way black politicians in New York and elsewhere cling to office for decades on end, passing their seats to relatives like heirlooms and doing everything in their power to drive newcomers away. But while the old guard gets older, Sharpton—who's mulling another run for President in 2008—is smartly playing the odds, collecting friends, fans and favors among a network of up-and-comers who will likely be running cities, states and Congress before long.

The reverend won't just have powerful friends. To the consternation of his enemies, he'll also get the last laugh.

IN HONOR OF THE THIRTY-FIRST
ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD
BROOKLYN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC), whose leaders, staff and members have uplifted, restored and energized all aspects of Cleveland's Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre neighborhoods for thirty-one years.

The OBCDC, a non-profit community organization, was formed in 1975 by a small group of concerned citizens and business owners who set out to protect their neighborhood from falling into decline. The initial vision and effort, one that spans 31 years, was a united one, bringing together civic, religious, government and neighborhood and private business leaders to the table to begin the work of uplifting a neighborhood.

Beyond historic preservation, neighborhood revitalization and housing and commercial redevelopment programs and projects, the

OBCDC has initiated numerous programs and services for residents and business owners, including the Old Brooklyn News. This award-winning monthly newspaper was established by the OBCDC in 1978 and still exists as a vital instrument of communication throughout the neighborhood. Another significant agency that sprung from the early work of the OBCDC includes Senior Citizen Resources, Inc. (SCR), a senior support organization that evolved from senior services provided by the OBCDC. The treasure of the neighborhood, the Benjamin Franklin Community Gardens, managed by the OBCDC, has attracted gardeners from all over the county for the past 26 growing seasons.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the members, staff and leaders, past and present, of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation. Their collective dedication, vision, volunteerism and work on behalf of all residents has served to preserve the historic integrity of the neighborhood, promote new commercial growth and maintain a healthy living environment for residents, young and old, throughout Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre, thereby strengthening the foundation of our entire Cleveland community.

THE FLOUR BLUFF NJROTC
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate South Texas' Flour Bluff High School's Navy Junior ROTC on winning their 10th consecutive Navy National Championship. These cadets have earned the state championship for the past 12 years and this year's victory marks their extraordinary 10th straight win in the national competition.

This year they placed first in armed drill exhibition, academics, unit inspection, and overall drill. This is a group that sincerely enjoys the challenging intricacies of competition.

Flour Bluff's NJROTC's unparalleled record comes from their ability to inspire future participants with their pride and dedication to excellence. They function like a family—always helping and learning from one another. Through the team's support and collaboration, they carry away memorable victories and lifelong friendships.

These cadets' discipline and enthusiastic dedication enhance their natural talent. Such sacrifice and practice are indicative of our nation's military future, an opportunity many of these young people seek. They are indeed our best and brightest, and I am so proud of all of them.

In high school competitions, as in life, the path to success requires hard work and an eager spirit. Competitions teach today's youth about teamwork and common effort, the fundamental components of life and work.

Year after year, the Flour Bluff cadets continue to bring distinction to their school and bring hope for the future of America. Their skill, perseverance, and commitment to quality are an exemplary representation of what South Texas has to offer.

These are the cadets who earned Flour Bluff's 10th consecutive Navy National Championship: Adrian Altamirano, Sade Auzenne, Arielle Carchidi, Sara Carmony, Leslie Cox, Dirk de Haan, Valerie Dimalanta, Miranda Edson, Julisa Ellerbe, Tomas Falkenberg, Deon Farmer, Devin Galindo, Melinda Garibay, Pancho Gonzales, Tyler Grant, David Guillen, Caz Haas, Jonathan Hada, Gustavo Hernandez, Josef Horn, Matthew Horn, William Joyce, Cassandra Leal, Gilbert Lozano, Ellysa Luehrs, Conor Morrison, Steven Murawski, Ruby Neisser, Amielyn Nillo, Danielle Pletcher, Rudy Ponce, Roxanne Reeder, Daniel Samuelson, Raffaele Sheehan, Jaclyn Stewart, Tanis Thompson, Tempestt Thompson, Tyler Warren, Eric Webb, and Jeremiah Widder.

The coaches who led them to victory are CDR Armando R. Solis and assistants HMCS Lee Holloway and SKI David Pitts.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in recognizing these young champions who know first hand how to compete and win graciously. Mr. Speaker, these young students have inspired us to continually strive for success.

IN HONOR OF THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN MONTEREY BAY AND
MINAMIBOSO OF THE BOSO PE-
NINSULA OF JAPAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, Ms. ESHOO and I rise today to honor the 109th Anniversary of the Abalone Connection, a treasured connection between two Pacific regions, the Monterey Bay and Minamiboso of the Boso Peninsula of Japan. Both regions are centrally located on the Pacific Coasts of their respective regions and share not only the beautiful scenery of the Pacific Rim, but also the abalone fishing culture and the business that developed because of the abundant marine life found in the sea along their coastlines.

In 1897, Gennosuke and Nakajiro Kodani of Minamiboso, and Alexander M. Allan of Monterey partnered to create the first successful deep-water abalone diving business in the East Pacific. Mr. Allan firmly defended his Japanese partners and employees through the tense period of anti-Japanese sentiment in California during the early part of the 20th century.

Their partnership brought a steady stream of highly skilled Minamiboso abalone divers back and forth across the Pacific, bringing Japanese technology and culture to the Monterey Bay Region and taking back American culture to Japan.

Furthering the connection between Monterey Bay and Japan, in the 1990s, historians on both sides of the Pacific began reconnecting the ties between the Monterey Bay Region and Minamiboso that were interrupted by World War II.

In recognition of these connections, on September 3, 2005, the citizens of the Boso Peninsula held a Symposium, titled "A Bridge Across the Pacific: The Spirit Connecting the Southern Boso Peninsula and Monterey Bay, California," which was dedicated to "giving a

peaceful world to our children". It exemplified the ongoing historic relationship of cooperation begun by the Gennosuke and Nakajiro Kodani and Alexander M. Allan.

Inspired by the Boso Peninsula Symposium, a group of Monterey Bay Region residents decided to hold a similar celebration in Monterey, California to celebrate the 109th anniversary of the connections between the Boso Peninsula and the Monterey Bay Region, as well as the contributions made by the citizens of each region to the history of the other.

Mr. Speaker, we're proud to honor the Abalone Connection as it celebrates its 109th anniversary. After more than a century, the Abalone Connection remains a source of pride for the Monterey Bay Region.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE LUKENS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steve Lukens, Assistant Principal at R.O. Hawkins Junior High School in Jackson, Missouri. Recently, Mr. Lukens announced his retirement after 31 years of distinguished service in Missouri's Public Schools.

Mr. Lukens was born on June 23, 1947, to Harry and Ella Lukens in St. Louis, Missouri. Upon graduation from high school he joined the U.S. Navy and served as an air traffic controller from 1967 until 1972. After his honorable discharge, Mr. Lukens pursued a degree in education from Southeast Missouri State University, which is also where he met his future wife, Ellen. Upon graduation from the Southeast Missouri State, he commenced what would be a long and laudable career in education.

Mr. Lukens has dedicated his life to public education over the past 31 years. He embarked on his teaching career in the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, public school system, where he served as a language arts teacher for 21 years. Throughout his time in the Cape Girardeau Public Schools, he served in several capacities for many extracurricular activities, including sponsor of the Red Dagger Club and set director for theater productions. In order to play an active role in the lives of even more students, Mr. Lukens pursued a position in school administration.

In 1996, Mr. Lukens accepted a position as Assistant Principal at R.O. Hawkins Junior High School and has served the school in this capacity for the past ten years. During his tenure, Mr. Lukens has overseen several massive construction projects to the school, a growing student population, and the everyday challenges associated with the instruction of adolescents. As the faces change every year in the halls of R.O. Hawkins Junior High, Mr. Lukens' dedication to education and cultivating the leaders of tomorrow remains a constant. To the students of R.O. Hawkins Junior High, Mr. Lukens is more than just a school administrator, he is a friend and mentor.

Although Mr. Lukens has led an exemplary career in education, it would not have been possible without the love and support of his family. Mr. Lukens' wonderful wife, Ellen, and two loving children, Jennie and Laura, undoubtedly enhanced his ability to change the

lives of area youth. As I commend Mr. Lukens, I also recognize the efforts of his family to further his career. I once again congratulate Mr. Lukens on a successful career in education and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE VIETNAMESE
COMMUNITY OF CLEVELAND AND
THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FALL OF SAIGON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and recognition of the 31st Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon. This historical date commemorates the end of the Vietnam War, and represents the beginning of a new life for tens of thousands of Vietnamese people, as they began their hopeful journey to America.

On April 30, 1975, the ancient city of Saigon fell to the conquest of communist troops. This action solidified the communist takeover of South Vietnam. Thirty-one years later, I rise to honor the memory and sacrifice of the hundreds of thousands of American soldiers, South Vietnamese soldiers and civilians who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of liberty.

Despite the takeover and the Communist rule that followed, the culture, spirit and hope reflected by the Vietnamese people remained steadfast. After the fall of Saigon, thousands of Vietnamese, determined to rebuild their lives, began a treacherous exodus out of Vietnam. Their daring escape was on foot, through thick jungles and over jagged mountains. They escaped by boat, through snake-infested rivers and across turbulent seas. They became refugees in many nations, including America, with nothing more than the clothes on their backs and the hope for freedom in their hearts.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me to honor and remember the hundreds of thousands of men and women who struggle for peace and freedom, then and now. We also honor agencies and churches such as The Vietnamese Community of Greater Cleveland and St. Helena Catholic Church, which offer a haven of support, services and hope to immigrants from all over the world. The Vietnamese culture, through the care and commitment of its people, has flourished in Cleveland and across America, yet remains forever connected to its ancient cultural and historical traditions that spiral back throughout the centuries, connecting the old world to the new, spanning oceans and borders in the ageless quest for peace—from Vietnam to America.

THE PORTER COWBOYS' 5A
SOCCER TITLE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Porter Cowboys, winners of the University Interscholastic League Class 5A

boys' soccer state championship. These young players came painstakingly close to defeat, but rose to victory in a 2–1 double-overtime win, earning Brownsville's first 5A state championship, and the pride of South Texas.

The Cowboys came back from a 1–0 deficit against the highly regarded team of Coppell in a match that went to two 10-minute overtime periods. The agility and perseverance of this team gained the recognition of even the rival coach who could not deny the heart the Cowboys put forth.

Less than a minute later, Porter tied up the game 1–1, after Coppell's only goal. The winning shot scored with 3:42 left on the stadium scoreboard, leaving the Cowboys' solid defense squad to protect the lead. The team left it all on the field to earn the Rio Grande Valley's first 5A title in soccer.

With such dedicated players and skilled coaching, it seems only right that their remarkable qualities led them to this year's championship. Their triumph is significant to both the team and their fans because it tells the story of how the road to victory is paved by those who never give up.

The Cowboys' success comes from sheer persistence and true teamwork. These young men have learned the supreme principles of both sports and life. They have experienced that winning is great but success is sweeter when teamwork and faith defy expectations and confront challenge.

These are the young champions: Eric Chapa, Edgar Sanchez, Aldo Sierra, Juan Razo, Jose Alvarado, Peter Ruiz, Victor Vela, Cristian Sierra, Wilfredo Fernandez, Edgar Acuna, Jorge Briones, Jovanny Briones, Alex Lara, Humberto Lopez, Gerardo Herrera, Mario Perez, Gerardo Martinez, Diego Rodriguez, Michael Cedillo, Angel Cardenas, Jesus Sanchez, Miguel Vasquez, Jose Mojica, Jorge Gandara, Abpsa Cardenas, Jose Sosa, and Abel Perez.

The coaches who led them to victory are Luis Zarate, Arturo A. Puig Jr., Pedro Valdez, and Miguel Marroquin.

I congratulate the Porter Cowboys who through their unwavering endurance and determination have brought great pride and joy to all of South Texas. I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in commending this outstanding band of champions who have learned the most important lessons of competition, faith, and commitment. Mr. Speaker, these young men have inspired us and made us exceptionally proud.

COMMENDING APSEA ON THEIR SUCCESS AND ANNUAL DINNER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to California's Asian Pacific State Employees Association as they celebrate their 31st anniversary and honor two of Sacramento's most outstanding citizens. Genevieve Shiroma will receive the President's Award for her distinguished career and advocacy in support the Asian Pacific Islander community and Raynor Tsuneyoshi will be honored with the Members Award for his dedication to APSEA and State employees. I ask all my colleagues to join me

in saluting the Asian Pacific State Employees Association, as well as Ms. Shiroma and Mr. Tsuneyoshi for their accomplishments.

The Asian Pacific State Employees Association, formerly known as the Asian State Employees Association, was founded in 1975 for the purpose of working toward achieving equal opportunity within the State work force through professional development and community empowerment. The Association's vision is one of Asian Pacific State employee serving, enhancing, and leading State government agencies and their community.

Objectives adopted by the Association include advocating for Asian Pacific Islander State employee interests; providing an Asian Pacific network for its members and employers; advancing personal and professional development of its membership; consulting with members facing adverse action or other employment problems; working with the community to promote career opportunities, professionalism, cultural pride, self-esteem, and citizenship; and providing services and interchange with community, academic, and business groups.

Benefits and services offered by the Association include employee development, networking, scholarship opportunities, communications, and celebration of Asian Pacific contributions. At present time, the Asian Pacific State Employees Association has over 1,000 members statewide and includes chapters in the Southern, Central Valley, and Bay Area. Officers frequently serve on legislative fact-finding committees, and provide testimony before the legislative committees regarding advocacy and affirmative action policies.

I also would like to acknowledge and congratulate APSEA's special honorees. Through her work at the Agricultural Labor Relations Board and California Air Resources Board, Genevieve has constantly advocated for policies that benefit all Californians. In Sacramento, she continues to make her mark as a civic leader by working with numerous non-profits and currently serves as president of the Sacramento Metropolitan Utility District's Board of Directors. Ray Tsuneyoshi is the director of the California Department of Boating and Waterways and serves on the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. He is known by many as one who all State employees can turn to for assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the Asian Pacific State Employees Association has evolved into a leading organization within the State, a dynamic force striving to improve the quality of life of its members and the general community. I am confident that Asian Pacific State Employees Association will continue to do great work and yield tremendous benefits to the Asian Pacific Islander State workers of California. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the Asian Pacific State Employees Association continued success in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PHILIP THORNTON HAIRE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Philip

Thornton Haire, a very good friend and a beloved figure in Clewiston, Florida and the surrounding Glades area.

Phil led a remarkable life. As a marine in World War II, he fought in the Pacific Theater, winning a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. Following his military service, Phil began a career as a radio sales executive working throughout the West and Midwest. In 1950, he moved to the Glades area, where he began his long association with radio station WSWN, known as "Sugar 900." In addition to his duties in sales, he became a sports announcer, copywriter, and eventually, Vice President and General Manager.

Phil Haire was an honest, decent man who always had a smile and a kind word for people he met. He was loved and respected throughout the Glades area. Phil truly left his mark on his community and on everyone who knew him. We will all miss him greatly.

On behalf of the Members of the House of Representatives, I would like to pass along our deepest condolences to Phil's family, friends, and loved ones.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER CARTER JONES, RESERVE OFFICER SCOTT CHRISTIE, AND DEPUTY STEFAN FISH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional courage demonstrated by Officer Carter Jones, Reserve Officer Scott Christie, and Deputy Stefan Fish on February 2, 2006. The circumstance in which this heroic act was carried out is indeed incredible and it is my privilege to honor the selfless actions these officers performed.

On February 2, 2006, these three individuals assisted in a pursuit of a wanted parolee trying to evade arrest. The wanted parolee was driving a stolen vehicle and had an extensive criminal history, including weapon and narcotic violations.

Officer Jones and Reserve Officer Christie pursued the suspect as he dangerously attempted to evade arrest. Eventually the suspect crashed head-on into another vehicle, engulfing it in flames and pinning his own vehicle against the victim's car.

The suspect had managed to escape from his vehicle and attempted to flee on foot. The initial officers on the scene physically apprehended the suspect, despite his continued efforts to resist their arrest. They removed the suspect from the area due to the intense heat of the burning vehicle, only to return moments later to rescue the victims. Deputy Fish attempted to open the victim's cars doors but could not due to its precarious position. As smoke quickly filled the car, Deputy Fish used his baton to smash the rear window. Immediately, Deputy Fish, Officer Jones, and Reserve Officer Christie rushed in and successfully evacuated two children; a 7-year-old girl and her 5-year-old sister; and two adults.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Jones, Reserve Officer Christie, and Deputy Fish risked their lives to rescue four innocent people. Without their quick response under extreme emergency conditions, this incident could have turned

deadly. Their exceptional efforts are admirable and I applaud them for their courage and dedication under pressure.

THE MILITARY DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce the Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act. This important piece of legislation will ensure greater protections for service members and their families if they become victims of violence. It also will strengthen programs to prevent violence against fellow soldiers and military families.

Unfortunately, sexual assault and domestic violence are pervasive and serious problems throughout all branches of the military. In March 2006, the Department of Defense (DoD) released their second annual sexual assault report, which stated that there were 2,374 allegations of sexual assaults reported in 2005; this is up from 1,700 the previous year. In 2004, the DoD reported 9,000 incidents of spousal abuse. A 2005 Sexual Harassment and Assault Survey of the Service Academies found 6 percent of females and 1 percent of males said they were sexually assaulted in 2004–2005, and less than half the females who experienced sexual assault reported it. In this same survey, 60 percent of female cadets indicated sexual harassment was about the same as when they first enrolled at their academy.

While the DoD has been making efforts to improve its prevention and response to domestic and sexual violence, victim services remain incomplete and inconsistent among the various branches. There have been reports that victims advocates, charged with protecting the victim's rights, have been denied resources to do their job, and in some instances been forced off the base all together. Furthermore, DoD policies are not codified in the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and do not offer the same level of rights and protections afforded to civilian victims. Perhaps most importantly, victims are unable to seek confidential counseling and treatment without fear that their records might become public if they press charges against their assailant.

My bill, the Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act, seeks to bring military law up to par with civilian laws by establishing a comprehensive approach for the military to address domestic violence and sexual assault among our soldiers. Specifically, this bill will:

Establish an Office of Victims Advocate (OVA) within DoD, bring the Family Advocacy Program under OVA, and create a Director of OVA to oversee and coordinate efforts to prevent and respond to cases of family violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking with the military and among military families;

Codify rights, restitution policies, treatment and other services for victims within the UCMJ, including creating comprehensive confidentiality protocols to protect the rights of victims within military law;

Strengthen policies for reporting, prosecuting and treating perpetrators of violence; and

Create counseling and treatment programs through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The military should be at the forefront of prosecuting assailants and setting the highest standards for treatment of servicemen and women, or military family members, victimized by sexual assault and domestic violence. Our Armed Forces must be able to guarantee the most basic protections to ensure these victims can receive necessary counseling, treatment, and justice.

If a victim cannot access essential care for fear of stigma, public embarrassment, threats to their career, or because they just do not know what resources are available, the military will continue to lose valuable female and male soldiers. These service members put themselves in harms way to protect us and our Nation from threats at home and abroad. They should not be given lesser rights and protections than the civilians whose freedoms they protect. My bill ensures they are adequately protected when dealing with the horrible tragedy of sexual assault or domestic violence.

Do not allow our brave service members to be victimized twice, once by their perpetrator and then again by the military's lack of appropriate, compassionate, and confidential treatment and response.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in cosponsoring the Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND JOHN H. ROUSE, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE IN THE MINISTRY AND 31ST ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF THE MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend John H. Rouse, of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, in East St. Louis, Illinois, on the occasion of his 51st anniversary of service in the ministry and 31st anniversary as Pastor of Mt. Zion.

John Rouse is the son of Dr. W.B. and Evelyn Rouse. A native of Nashville, Tennessee, Rev. Rouse graduated with honors from Lincoln High School in East St. Louis, Illinois. Even though he was the president of his graduating class, Rev. Rouse was once counseled at Lincoln High School to compromise his ambition and settle for employment that did not require public speaking. How fortunate for all those who have benefited from his years of ministry that Rev. Rouse did not follow that advice.

Rev. Rouse began his formal ministry at the First Ward Baptist Church, in Clarksville, Tennessee, where he was pastor until 1970. During his time in Tennessee, Rev. Rouse continued his extensive education at American Baptist Seminary and College of the Bible, Tennessee State University, Austin Peay State University and George Peabody College.

Also during his years in Tennessee, Rev. Rouse became very involved in the civil rights

struggle. His work to end segregation in Tennessee and later in Henderson, Kentucky has continued throughout his years of ministry as he has been a constant champion of civil rights and social justice.

It was through activities as a member of the NAACP that Rev. Rouse met Mary G. Avent, who would become his wife and mother of their four children.

In 1975, Rev. Rouse returned to East St. Louis to begin his pastorate at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church where he still serves as pastor today. While at Mt. Zion, Rev. Rouse has expanded his ministry to include Mt. Zion Baptist Mission East, as well as a community-based prison ministry. In addition to their own four children, Rev. and Mrs. Rouse have taken in a number of foster children and opened their hearts and helping hands to many within their congregation.

While Rev. Rouse has built an impressive congregation in East St. Louis, he has extended his ministry through speaking engagements, workshops and revivals across the country and as far away as Seoul, South Korea. Rev. Rouse has officiated at over 2,000 weddings and over 5,000 funerals. He has served on governing boards and commissions serving the church, education, government and community.

Rev. Rouse has traveled far and wide in his service to the Lord. He has also been a teacher, coach and funeral director. He has built congregations and mentored others in their quest to become ministers. The good work that he has done has extended far beyond the boundaries of his present congregation and will be felt for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Reverend Rouse for his 51 years of dedicated ministry and to wish him and his family the very best in the future.

HONORING NEIL ARMSTRONG AS HE RECEIVES THE NASA AMBASSADOR OF EXPLORATION AWARD

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Neil Armstrong, a war hero, teacher, businessman, and one of the world's greatest explorers, who received the prestigious National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ambassador of Exploration Award on April 18, 2006 at the Cincinnati Museum Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

An Ohio native son, Neil Armstrong rewrote history in July of 1969 when he was the first man to set foot on the moon. Mr. Armstrong served as commander of Apollo 11, the first manned lunar landing mission. He was accompanied on this historical journey to the moon by Command Module Pilot Michael Collins and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin.

Born in 1930, Mr. Armstrong always had a fascination for airplanes and space travel. He started taking flying lessons at the age of fifteen and received his pilot's license at the age of sixteen.

After graduating from high school in 1947, Mr. Armstrong entered Purdue University with

a U.S. Navy Scholarship. He started working toward an aeronautical engineering degree, but in 1949, he was called to active duty with the U.S. Navy. He was awarded his jet wings at Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida at the age of 20, making him the youngest pilot in his squadron. During his service in Korea, he flew 78 combat missions in Navy panther jets earning three Air Medals. After his service, he returned to Purdue to complete his bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering in 1955. He went on to earn his master's in aerospace engineering from the University of Southern California in 1970.

Mr. Armstrong joined NACA (National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics), NASA's predecessor, where as a research test pilot he piloted the X-15, an experimental rocket plane. In 1962, he attained astronaut status and in 1966 served as command pilot for the Gemini 8 mission. Following his 1969 mission to the moon, Mr. Armstrong held the position of Deputy Associate Administrator for Aeronautics at NASA for several years.

Aside from his sizeable contributions to aeronautics, Mr. Armstrong has also made an impact in the college classroom. From 1971–1979, he was a professor of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Cincinnati.

He previously served as chairman of Computing Technologies for Aviation in Charlottesville, Virginia, and chairman of the board of AIL Systems, an electronics systems company located in New York. He currently serves as chairman of CTA Inc. in Lebanon, Ohio.

In addition to worldwide recognition for his role on the Apollo 11, Mr. Armstrong has earned countless awards and distinctions for his many accomplishments, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest award bestowed upon a U.S. citizen; the NASA Distinguished Service Medal; the NASA Exceptional Service Medal; and the Congressional Space Medal of Honor. He is a former Chairman of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

Mr. Armstrong and his wife Carol currently reside in Indian Hill and own a farm in Warren County. He has two grown sons.

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate Neil Armstrong on receiving the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Ambassador of Exploration Award.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA: IMPROVING OR DETERIORATING CONDITIONS?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on April 19, the day before Chinese President Hu Jintao's official visit to President George Bush, I held a hearing of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations to examine China's human rights record. The hearing focused on such areas as China's censorship of the internet, implementation of the right of Chinese citizens to worship freely, protection of minority rights, compliance with international labor standards, China's barbaric practice of organ harvesting, and the destructive effects on Chinese society—especially on women—of its government's coercive one-child policy.

Over the years, I have held more than 25 hearings on human rights abuses in China. While China's economy has improved somewhat, the human rights situation remains abysmal. So-called economic reform has utterly failed to result in the protection of freedom of speech, expression, or assembly.

President Hu Jintao's visit to the United States provided the U.S. Congress and people an opportunity to bring to the attention of U.S. policy makers and the world community the terrible human rights situation as it exists in China today. It also helped provide the vital context for any relationship we should have with China. And it conveyed our unshakeable regard and commitment to press Beijing for serious, measurable and durable reform. The people of China deserve no less. It is our moral duty to stand with the oppressed, not with the oppressor.

State Department human rights reports and the consistent reporting from very reputable NGOs indicate that Chinese government repression of its citizens continues. In fact, the current Chinese regime is one of the very worst violators of human rights in the world, and continues to commit every single day egregious crimes against its own citizens. China was first named a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) by the State Department in 1999 for ongoing, egregious and systemic violations of religious freedom, and has been a CPC every year since. Few if any nations can even begin to match China's unseemly record, from the systematic denial of political freedom and use of torture to interference in the most private matters of family and conscience. At a rough count, the most recent State Department Human Rights Report for China ran to about 45,000 words. Before it even gets down to details, the report lists 22 major human rights problems:

Denial of the right to change the government;

Physical abuse resulting in deaths in custody;

Torture and coerced confessions of prisoners;

Harassment, detention, and imprisonment of those perceived as threatening to party and government authority;

Arbitrary arrest and detention, including nonjudicial administrative detention, reeducation-through-labor, psychiatric detention, and extended or incommunicado pretrial detention;

A politically controlled judiciary and a lack of due process in certain cases, especially those involving dissidents;

Detention of political prisoners, including those convicted of disclosing state secrets and subversion, those convicted under the now-abolished crime of counterrevolution, and those jailed in connection with the 1989 Tiananmen demonstrations;

House arrest and other non-judicially approved surveillance and detention of dissidents;

Monitoring of citizens' mail, telephone and electronic communications;

Use of a coercive birth limitation policy, in some cases resulting in forced abortion and sterilization;

Increased restrictions on freedom of speech and the press; closure of newspapers and journals; banning of politically sensitive books, periodicals, and films; and jamming of some broadcast signals;

Restrictions on the freedom of assembly, including detention and abuse of demonstrators and petitioners;

Restrictions on religious freedom, control of religious groups, and harassment and detention of unregistered religious groups;

Restrictions on the freedom of travel, especially for politically sensitive and underground religious figures;

Forcible repatriation of North Koreans and inadequate protection of many refugees;

Severe government corruption;

Increased scrutiny, harassment and restrictions on independent domestic and foreign nongovernmental organization (NGO) operations;

Trafficking in women and children;

Societal discrimination against women, minorities, and persons with disabilities;

Cultural and religious repression of minorities in Tibetan areas and Muslim areas of Xinjiang;

Restriction of labor rights, including freedom of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, and worker health and safety; and

Forced labor, including prison labor).

Beijing has increasingly viewed the information available on the internet as a potential threat to the Party's ability to control the population and monopolize political power. It has turned China into one of the most internet restrictive countries in the world. It is important to note that the freedoms that we enjoy in America allow individuals to publish information and news on the Web unfiltered. Those freedoms do not exist in China. Individuals who attempt to speak freely are imprisoned and even tortured. At the very least, U.S. corporations should not be aiding and abetting that process. Yet at a February hearing I chaired on the Internet in China, we learned in greater—and disturbing—detail, how some of the biggest corporations in America have partnered with the much-hated Chinese secret police to find, apprehend, convict and jail religious believers and pro-democracy advocates.

Yahoo told us at the hearing how profoundly they regret sending Shi Tao to prison for 10 years but they couldn't tell us—and didn't seem to know—how many others were condemned to jail and torture because of Yahoo's complicity with the secret police. When I asked under what terms and conditions—court order, police demand, a fishing trip—Yahoo surrenders emails and address files, Yahoo told us that they couldn't reveal this information to us because it would break Chinese law.

Google, for its part, created an exclusively Chinese search engine that only a Joseph Goebbels could love. Type in any number of vile words like human rights, or Tian An Men Square massacre, or Falun Gong, and you will get rerouted to government propaganda—much of it heavily anti-American and anti-President George Bush, and filled with hate, especially for the Falun Gong. How did Google respond to our deep concern about their enabling a dictatorship to expand its hate message? According to the New York Times report of late March, they hired big-time Washington lobbying firms like Podesta-Mattoon and the DCI group to put a good face on it all—and presumably kill my pending legislation, the Global Online Freedom Act of 2006,

Amazingly, Cisco showed no seller's remorse whatsoever that its technology—especially "Policenet"—a tool for good in the hands of honest cops and legitimate law enforcement, but a tool of repression in the hands of Chinese police has now effectively linked and exponentially expanded the capabilities of the Chinese police.

Microsoft also censors and shuts down blogs that "Big Brother objects to. You can be sure that no serious discussion on human

rights was on the agenda at President Hu visit with Bill Gates at Microsoft.

China's continued repression of religion is among the most despotic in the world. In February, the BBC reported that China had warned Hong Kong's newly-appointed Cardinal, Joseph Zen, a well-known critic of China's suppression of religious freedoms, to remain quiet on political issues. Citizens practicing a faith other than officially sanctioned religions are often subjected to torture, imprisonment, and death, at which time prisoner organs are frequently harvested to meet demand. Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, and Muslim Uyghurs are all being persecuted for their faith. Today, numerous underground Roman Catholic priests and bishops and Protestant pastors languish in the Lao Gai, China's infamous concentration camps, simply proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the early 90's I meet with Bishop Su Zhimin of Baoding Province—a gentle and kind man who celebrated Mass for our small delegation. I was deeply inspired by his faith (he had recently been let out of jail) and by his compassion for those who had jailed and mistreated him. He had no animosity for them—only compassion and forgiveness. What kind of regime incarcerates a truly noble man like this? Soon after our visit, he was re-arrested on false charges, released, and re-arrested and jailed again. He has now spent at least 27 years of his life in jail—for loving God. What kind of barbaric regime hurts a man like this?

And then there is the special hate Beijing pours out on the Falun Gong. Nearly seven years ago the Chinese government began its brutal campaign to completely eradicate Falun Gong through whatever means necessary. Many Party Members and Army officials had begun to practice Falun Gong. Like all dictators and totalitarian terror systems, the PRC fears and hates what it cannot control. So it decided to destroy and intimidate those who practice Falun Gong. We see before us a Stalinist nightmare revived for the 21st century—hundreds, perhaps thousands, dead as a result of torture; tens of thousands jailed without trial, held in labor camps, prisons, and mental hospitals, where they are forced to endure torture brainwashing sessions.

Just over a year ago Beijing finally released the renowned human rights activist, Rebiya Kadeer, from prison, where she had been held for years on trumped up charges for defending the rights of her fellow Uyghur Muslims in China. We had hoped this signaled some sort of genuine improvement in Beijing's treatment of human rights, but now we know better: since Rebiya, who is now living in America, has continued to campaign for the recognition of the legitimate rights of her fellow Uyghurs, her relatives and business associates still in China are being subjected to renewed harassment by the authorities. Rebiya is with us here today to testify about China's continuing campaign against her peoples.

Coercive family-planning policy in China has slaughtered more innocent children than any war in human history. Coercive family planning has wounded Chinese women by the millions and the physical consequence is that 500 women commit suicide every day. China's one-child per couple policy, decreed in 1979, has killed hundreds of millions of babies by imposing Draconian fines—up to ten times annual salaries—on their parents to force them to abort. In China today brothers and sisters

are illegal. Sex selection abortions—a direct consequence of allowing only one baby per couple, has led to gendercide—approximately 100 million girls are missing—in China. One Chinese demographer has admitted that by 2020, forty million Chinese men won't be able to find wives because Beijing's weapon of mass destruction—population control—destroyed the girls.

There is no recourse for millions of Chinese laborers trapped in poor working conditions. Those who protest unjust wage and labor practices outside of the government-controlled labor union are arrested and imprisoned. Chinese citizens are often persecuted just for going to court to secure rights which even current Chinese law, as restrictive as it is, guarantees them. And the lawyers who seek to help them are threatened, harassed, beaten, disbarred and jailed for doing their simple duty. They join countless prisoners of conscience in China's modern day concentration camps. These are found everywhere in China—more than 1,100 by one count.

Finally, we heard testimony about China's barbaric policy of harvesting human organs for sale and transplant. China admits it does this. According to China's Ministry of Health, since 1993, there have been over 65,000 transplant procedures performed in China. China's Deputy Health Minister recently stated that 95 percent of the organs for organ transplants performed in China are from executed Chinese prisoners. Of course it claims it only harvests the organs of executed prisoners, and only if they or their families consent. But what value can such a statement have in a country where the death penalty is virtually an assembly line process? Where according to the Department of State's Human Rights Report for 2005, foreign experts estimate between five and twelve thousand people are executed every year? Chinese courts hand down the death sentence for an ever-expanding range of crimes, including nonviolent and political crimes. Appeals are conducted hastily, if at all. In an effort to boost profits, it is reported that some provincial or local officials in China have begun to allow mobile medical vans at execution sites to facilitate the ease and efficiency with which prisoners' organs may be harvested. We have all heard the recent horrific stories that China is now targeting the thousands of innocent Falun Gong prisoners it holds for organ harvesting, and perhaps not even waiting until they are dead. The State Department and the UN Special Rapporteur for Torture, Manfred Nowak, have been investigating. They must get to the truth of these blood-curdling stories, and do everything to stop this shameful practice.

Human rights are everyone's rights. Governments are instituted to secure, protect and safeguard those rights. Human rights aren't privileges. Human rights are worth fighting for, even when they are costly, and even when it is inconvenient. Our witnesses, Mr. Ethan Gutmann, author of *Losing the New China: a Story of American Commerce, Desire and Betrayal*; Ms. Rebiya Kadeer, Human Rights Activist, Former Political Prisoner, and President of the International Uyghur Human Rights and Democracy Foundation; Mr. Joseph Kung, Director, Cardinal Kung Foundation; Ms. Thea Lee, Director of Public Policy, AFL-CIO; Mr. Steven Mosher, President Population Research Institute; Mr. Harry Wu; Executive Director, Laogai Research Foundation; and Mr.

Lu Decheng, 1989 Tiananmen Square Protestor, who spent 9 years in jail, all provided vitally useful testimony today.

HONORING THE JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INLAND NORTHWEST HALL OF FAME LAUREATES FOR 2006

HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Miss. McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wendell J. Satre, Ron and Julie Wells, and Fidelity and Associates for being named Junior Achievement of the Inland Northwest Hall of Fame Laureates for 2006. These individuals embody the mission of Junior Achievement, which is to inspire young people to be successful in life through free enterprise education and help them envision and pursue their future roles in our society. These honorees serve as examples of good mentorship and civic responsibility.

Wendell J. Satre is the former chairman, president, and CEO of Washington Water Power, which has since become A vista Utilities. He has been actively involved in community service and philanthropic organizations, and was instrumental in securing a Washington State University campus in Spokane. His dedication has helped make Eastern Washington a place of charity, education, and mutual responsibility.

Ron and Julie Wells have been active and successful historical preservationists in the Spokane area. They see our historical structures as vehicles for remembering our past and understanding the present. The rich heritage available to the citizens of Spokane is in large part due to the work these individuals have done.

Hall of Fame Laureate Fidelity and Associates has served the Spokane area for 100 years and is 1 of the Inland Northwest's largest locally owned independent insurance agencies. Fidelity's dedication to the people of Eastern Washington is exemplified in its College Student Property Insurance Program which has helped alleviate one of the stresses of college life associated with living in dorms and houses.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank these honorees for their service to the communities and citizens of Eastern Washington. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating these Junior Achievement Hall of Fame Laureates.

INTRODUCTION OF FAA WAR RISK INSURANCE EXTENSION LEGISLATION

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today that would extend the Federal Aviation Administration's war risk insurance program for U.S. commercial air carriers. Ever since 9/11, the commercial insurance market has been unwilling to provide the war-risk insurance that our nation's airlines need. That

continues today and there is no foreseeable end to this situation. If airlines don't have that insurance coverage, as a practical matter they won't be able to fly. Because of this situation, Congress must extend the program to provide U.S. airlines the war-risk insurance that they need. The accompanying legislation would do that for five years.

As many of us remember, immediately after 9/11 commercial insurers in lockstep cancelled the airlines' war-risk policies. That withdrawal of essential insurance coverage caused a crisis that Congress on September 21, 2001 resolved by granting the Federal Aviation Administration the authority to issue war-risk insurance policies to U.S. airlines. The FAA today provides war-risk insurance to some 70 U.S. airlines. The FAA program has been generating roughly \$150 million annually in premium payments to the treasury and we can expect about the same amount of payments in 2006. That is 6 or 7 times what the U.S. airline industry paid for that coverage before 9/11.

Congress has repeatedly extended the FAA's program since 2002 because we have recognized that war-risk insurance for the airlines is indispensable. Airlines won't fly without that coverage because they cannot bear the financial risk of a catastrophic act of terrorism against them. Expressed another way, no one wants large aircraft operating in the United States that do not have adequate insurance coverage.

I wish that I could report that the commercial market for aviation war-risk insurance has returned to its pre-9/11 condition. Unfortunately, it has not; the marketplace is failing to cover the terrorism risks to which airlines are exposed. Indeed, the situation has worsened. Premium costs and coverage terms in the commercial market have not been and are not today reasonable.

Of immediate concern is how the marketplace is treating coverage of aviation losses attributable to weapons of mass destruction. The FAA's insurance policy quite properly covers this risk. But if U.S. airlines were required to rely on the commercial market for war-risk insurance, today they effectively could not get WMD coverage for their aircraft (in insurance terms, their "hulls".) More ominously, it appears that this year the commercial market will stop providing most third-party WMD coverage. This means that if a WMD incident were to occur on an aircraft in flight, commercial insurance would not cover the death and injury of persons on the ground, or damage to property on the ground.

Neither airlines nor their employees, who have borne so much of the financial adversity that the U.S. airline industry has suffered since 9/11, can afford such an increase in premiums. Between 2001 and 2005, U.S. airlines had net losses of more than \$40 billion. A staggering 135,000 jobs have been lost in the airline industry since 2001. The compensation of those who remain in the industry in many instances has been slashed. Current projections are that the airlines will lose another \$2 billion in 2006. With stubbornly high oil prices, now \$67 per barrel, that projection may turn out to be optimistic.

If Congress does not act, the already ailing U.S. airlines will be forced into a commercial market that provides war-risk insurance that is extraordinarily expensive; does not provide anywhere near the coverage that is nec-

essary; and continues to write war-risk insurance policies with seven-day cancellation clauses, the same clauses that caused so much turmoil right after 9/11.

We must therefore renew the FAA's war-risk insurance program. And, realistically, we must do so for an extended period. We have had one-year renewals of the program since 2002. We would all be better served if the extension were lengthier, which is why the accompanying legislation would extend the program for 5 years. I am pleased to introduce this needed legislation today.

STATEMENT ON THE LOSS OF CORPORAL BRIAN R. ST. GERMAIN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a brave Marine in Iraq, Corporal Brian R. St. Germain, a Rhode Island citizen who served his country with dignity and honor. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

Cpt. St. Germain grew up in West Warwick, RI. He was an honor student and a 2001 graduate of West Warwick High School, where determination and hard work led him to become an all-state hurdler on the track and field team. These traits were signs of the first-rate Marine that he would soon become.

Cpt. St. Germain was an active duty Marine on his second tour of duty in Iraq assigned to the 1st Marine Logistics Group, 1st Expeditionary Force. Cpl. St. Germain unselfishly volunteered to ride on dangerous convoys so that his fellow Marines with wives and children would be spared the additional risk. On April 2nd, Cpl. St. Germain was killed in a vehicle accident along with five other marines in the Al Anbar Province when their Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement was caught in a flash flood and rolled over.

This loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When Cpl. St. Germain's nation called him to duty to preserve freedom, liberty and security, he answered without hesitation. We will remember him as a patriot who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

Cpl. St. Germain is survived by his parents, Lynn and Robert; his brother Nicholas; his grandmother Louise; and his uncle and godfather, Terence Adamo. May we keep his loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they endure this difficult period.

We will also continue to hope for the safe and speedy return of all of our troops serving throughout the world.

IN MEMORY OF DAN SCHAEFER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the death of former U.S. Representative Dan Schaefer, who rep-

resented Colorado's 6th Congressional District for 15 years before he retired at the end of the 105th Congress.

While I did not serve with Dan, we occasionally found each other on the familiar flights between Washington and Denver after his retirement from Congress, and like all Coloradans I am aware of his contributions to our state and the nation.

He took a leadership role in establishing the House's renewable-energy caucus and in support of the important work of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)—a role that was appropriately recognized when NREL's visitors' center was named for him.

He also worked closely with my predecessor, Representative David Skaggs, in pressing for timely cleanup of the closed Rocky Flats nuclear-weapons facility—a goal that was finally achieved just last year.

And as our state experienced rapid population growth, he also worked to provide federal assistance to help fund essential transportation infrastructure, including funds for highway and light-rail construction and improvements.

In the words of The Denver Post, "Schaefer had a fine ability to disagree with people without being disagreeable. Besides leaving cleaner lands and water as his legacy, he left a record of civility and decency in public affairs that will be greatly missed in today's often strident politics."

He will be missed, in Colorado and in Congress. For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a recent editorial about his career and contributions.

[From the Denver Post, Apr. 24, 2006]

SCHAEFER SERVED COLORADO WELL

Dan Schaefer's legacy can be seen in the native grasses that replaced the former Rocky Flats nuclear bomb factory and in the pavement of C-470. Schaefer, who last week died of cancer at age 70, represented Colorado's 6th Congressional District for 15 years until retiring in 1998. Called a conservative in his political career, today he would be a moderate Republican.

While in office, Schaefer focused on service to his district and state, and fiscal restraint in government. His national initiatives, to end the income tax and deregulate electrical utilities, failed on their merits.

Close to home, though, he successfully worked with David Skaggs, the Boulder Democrat who then represented the 2nd Congressional District, to fast-track Rocky Flats' cleanup. He pushed the U.S. government to meet the same environmental standards imposed on industry. He got crucial federal support for C-470 but supported mass transit, too. Schaefer was such a champion of renewable energy that the main building at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden is named after him.

Schaefer had a fine ability to disagree with people without being disagreeable. Besides leaving cleaner lands and water as his legacy, he left a record of civility and decency in public affairs that will be greatly missed in today's often strident politics.

HONORING THE LADIES OF THE RED HAT SOCIETY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a very remarkable group of

women. As I'm sure many of us here can attest, the aging process can be a daunting experience. This special group has refused to accept that life after a certain age means confinement to a rocking chair. Now, it is hard for me personally to imagine that someone who is merely 50—the minimum age for membership—could approach this spry age with reservation; however, these women tell me that this birthday can be somewhat traumatic.

As the story goes, several years ago Sue Ellen Cooper of Fullerton, California read the poem, "Warning" by British poet Jenny Joseph. The poem begins,

"When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat that doesn't go . . ."

So inspired was Ms. Cooper by this poem, that she decided to pass along a copy of it to a friend, accompanied by a vintage red fedora. Her friend loved the gift, and did the same for a friend of hers. On April 25, 1998, under the direction of Exalted Queen Mother Sue Ellen, The Red Hat Society first convened in a tea-room of ladies wearing purple dresses and—of course—red hats.

Although it took some convincing, these ladies had to explain to me that red and purple do not actually match. Nevertheless, this fashion faux pas stuck and is quite a sight to see indeed.

These wonderful women refer to themselves as a "dis-organization" determined to take on aging with a sense of humor, camaraderie and a fun-loving spirit. They organize social events, hold conferences and communicate with "hat-quarters" via their own webpage. This inclusive group even allows women of lesser maturity to join their ranks. To differentiate these "ladies in waiting" from full-fledged members, this sub-sect is confined to wearing lavender dresses with pink hats, reserving the truly outrageous garb for those who have hit "the big one." My wife Deborah tells me that lavender and pink do not go very well together either, but they are generally preferable to red and purple.

Sue Ellen Cooper realized that behind every woman, no matter how responsible and upstanding of a citizen she was in her youth, is a crazy old spirit waiting to get out and cause some trouble. Ms. Cooper and her friends found a way to connect these women, and since that day in 1998, they have seen nothing but success. Any woman who is of a certain age and willing to go out in public dressed in particular flare can start her own chapter of Red Hats. California, Florida, and Michigan lead the nation in Red Hat chapters, with the 15th Congressional District alone boasting 91. There are thousands more active chapters across the United States, and even some international chapters as far away as Egypt and Japan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me today in commemoration of the official first meeting of the Red Hat Society and honor these thousands of inspiring women who endeavor to remain young at heart and in soul.

RULE PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 609

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this restrictive rule and in opposition to H.R. 609.

First, I would like to state my support for specific provisions in the Manager's Amendment to H.R. 609 that eliminated the funding formula change to campus-based aid.

As introduced, H.R. 609 changed the formula for campus-based aid programs, including Work Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and low-interest Perkins Loans. This would have resulted in substantial losses of this aid to schools across the country with a history of participation in the program. Students at schools in my state of Massachusetts would have lost \$9.4 million in work study and other programs.

During Subcommittee and full Committee mark-ups, Mr. KIND and I offered amendments to ensure that students were not unfairly punished by the changes to the campus-based aid funding formula in H.R. 609. Our amendments gained support from both sides of the aisle and the votes were tied in both mark-ups. We were also joined by more than 80 of our colleagues in sending a letter to the Chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee asking for these funding formula changes to be taken out of the bill before floor consideration. I would like to express my thanks to the outgoing and incoming Chairmen for heeding our call. They realized that changing the distribution formula would harm thousands of students because it would have simply taken funds from one group of needy students and shifted those funds to another group of needy students. Unless we increased the appropriations for campus-based aid, Mr. KIND and I felt strongly that we could not in good faith change the funding distribution formula.

While I am extremely pleased that the Manager's Amendment eliminates the campus-based aid cuts, I must turn now to the Rule before us today.

I am disappointed, but not surprised, that this restrictive rule does not make in order the amendments I brought before the Rules Committee on Tuesday afternoon.

My amendments would have helped make college more affordable for low- and middle-income students and families across the country. After all, what is the point of reauthorizing the Higher Education Act if we aren't going to make college more affordable?

Ms. MCCOLLUM and I attempted to offer several amendments, including an amendment based on our bill, the College Affordability and Accountability Act. Quite simply, the amendments would make college more affordable by:

Renewing states' commitment to affordable college education by ensuring that they maintain their own level of college financing, so states will no longer be able to push higher tuition taxes onto students and families;

Providing incentives to make tuition affordable;

Engaging schools in cost containment strategies; and

Putting students and families in control by giving them access to accurate information about the cost of college and steps individual schools are taking to offer affordable rates of tuition.

We also offered an amendment to commission a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study on college costs and the impact of state support for higher education on college costs. In my home state of Massachusetts and in other states around the country, state support for higher education has plummeted, pushing more of the burden of college on students and families.

I also sought to offer an amendment to commission a study by the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance to review current student aid programs and recommend the steps that Congress must take in order to ensure that every qualified eligible student receives a sufficient comprehensive financial aid package. This financial aid package should come from a variety of sources, including the federal government, state governments, institutions of higher education and private sources, and it should cover at least the equivalent of a four-year public higher education.

All qualified high school graduates should be able to afford at least the equivalent of a four-year public higher education. Today, that is not the case. Many students are foregoing college, dropping out or incurring unmanageable levels of student loan debt.

Young people in their 20s and 30s are not only leaving college with much more personal debt—students graduate with an average of almost \$20,000 of student loan debt—but also are burdened by rapidly increasing health care, energy and housing costs. To make matters worse, according to recent studies, young people are working longer hours and still earning less money. We must do more for young people in America today. We must restore the American dream so that young people can achieve financial prosperity through hard work and determination.

The amendments I offered to the Rules Committee would have helped us make college affordable and accessible for students and their families.

Mr. Speaker, we had a real opportunity to help make college affordable today, but instead students and families will be left to struggle with sky-rocketing tuition costs and mounting debt on their own. H.R. 609 will not make college more affordable. I urge Members to oppose the restrictive rule and oppose final passage of H.R. 609.

WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Azerbaijan as a key ally in a region of significant importance and a valued partner to the United States. Azerbaijan has made important contributions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosovo and supports efforts to combat terrorism. The country has also taken effective steps to foster pro-democratic principles leading to fair and free elections.

I also would like to welcome President Ilham Aliyev to Washington this week for meetings with President Bush, senior Administration officials, and key Congressional leaders to discuss the need for continued democratic reforms, regional cooperation, energy security and diversification, and our nations' commitment to working closely together to advance freedom, security, and economic independence.

It is clear now more than ever that we must develop new sources of energy and partners not controlled by Middle East and South American dictatorships.

Azerbaijan has been identified as key to the East-West transit corridor from the Caspian Sea to international markets. Sharing a 379 mile border with Iran, we should recognize that Azerbaijan is important to the United States relations in the region. I encourage my colleagues in the House to support the opening of the one million barrel per day Baku-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline and Baku-Erzurum (SCP) natural gas pipeline, set to increase energy exports and availability for the West.

I welcome President Ilham Aliyev upon his first official visit to Washington.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, I rise to urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 378, in recognition of the goals of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

In 2004, according to the Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey, approximately 24 million Americans became victims of a criminal action, including 5.2 million acts of violence.

While I celebrate the fact that this marks the lowest level ever recorded, I remain committed to providing a voice and a helping hand to those whose freedoms have been infringed.

In tribute to the more than 10,000 system- and community-based assistance programs that serve as a vital role in the recovery process, the theme of the 2006 National Crime Victims' Rights Week is "Strength in Unity."

Since the passage of the Victims of Crimes Act in 1984, more than \$7 billion in fines and other assessments have been collected from those who prey on some of the weakest and most vulnerable members of our society.

Each year thousands of volunteers selflessly contribute their time and energy that enables an individual to make the important transformation from "crime victim" to "crime survivor." Through various means of advocacy, we continue our work to ensure that no victim, nor family member, is forced to face a legal or medical appointment on their own; or, more importantly, left to face an anniversary alone.

Mr. Speaker, when the salacious interest of check-out stand voyeurs wanes, and the cable news programs turn their cameras to another sensational story, we must remain the crime victims' advocate and ally.

HONORING JUDY TRAMMELL AND THE MESQUITE WOMEN IN SERVICE AND ENTERPRISE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, for the past five years, the greater Mesquite area has embraced the opportunity to honor many exceptional women in the community through the Women In Service and Enterprise (WISE) Award Luncheon and Style Show. Today I would like to honor this year's award recipient, Judy Trammell, who is a shining example of strong, capable and dedicated leadership. I would also like to recognize honorees Sammie Motley Coats, Officer Cheryl Gregg and JaLinda Grimland for their valuable service and commitment to their community.

Judy Trammell is a personal friend and is actually one of the first people I met in Mesquite. She has always been extremely helpful to me and I have had the chance to work first-hand with her on several occasions. Recently the Mesquite Service League was the recipient of a very kind charitable donation, and I was able to be there, with Judy, to witness the generosity and appreciation of the Mesquite community.

Judy is the Business Development/Marketing Director for Jefferson Bank in Mesquite. Since moving to Mesquite in 1985, she has held positions with Mesquite Savings and Loan, Mesquite National Bank and Colonial Bank.

Judy has served on numerous boards in the greater Mesquite community including: American Heart Association Mesquite, Exchange Club of Mesquite, Mesquite Chamber of Commerce, Mustangar Chamber of Commerce, Mesquite Service League, Advisory Board of Boys and Girls Club of Dallas—Mesquite Division, member of Main Street Mesquite and Mesquite Social Services.

In addition to being active in the community and holding leadership roles, Judy has also been recognized for her service. She has received the American Heart Association Regional Volunteer of the Year award in 1998, the Distinguished Service Award in 1999, and was awarded a research grant in her honor. She received the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce 2002 Volunteer of the Year award and the 2005 Committee Chair of the Year award.

Judy is not only constantly on the go at work and with community service activities, but she is also an energetic mother of two daughters and the proud grandmother of grandsons, Mason and Cameron. Judy truly embodies the ideals of a great volunteer; she knows how to lead, encourage others to follow and "get her hands dirty." Judy's impact on our community is great and far-reaching and exemplifies an outstanding woman in service and enterprise.

Past WISE Award winners have served in a variety of ways, but they are united by the long-lasting impact they have made on their community. Their service, community involvement and dedication to enterprise also inspire younger generations. This year, Mesquite Social Services and the Mesquite Service League are, once again, partnering to honor six Junior WISE scholarship recipients: Phylecia Burk, Christine Nguyen, Renu Mat-

thews, Cari Wheat, Bianca Rodriguez and Makiala Fivecoat. These six young ladies, who are graduating from local high schools in Mesquite, have all indicated their desire to attend college and enter a service-oriented field of study.

Today, I would like to recognize Judy Trammell and all of the WISE honorees for their outstanding service and congratulate them on their awards. Thank you, ladies, for helping make our community and country a better place.

TRIBUTE TO JANE JACOBS

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we lost one of New York City's greatest champions and a pioneer in the world of urban planning when Jane Jacobs died at the age of 89.

Millions of people visit New York every year, and many are overwhelmed by its sheer size. The hulking skyscrapers. The bustling crowds. The bright lights.

But the dynamism of Manhattan during rush hour is just a piece of the story.

A more complete picture of the Big Apple is colored by the scores of local communities that are defined not by big business of the world's economic capital, but rather by the rhythm of parents walking kids to a local elementary school, families attending religious services at a local church or synagogue, and mothers and fathers shopping along the neighborhood shopping strip.

While the Manhattan skyline may spring to mind when someone mentions New York, the DNA of the City's everyday life is defined much more by each local neighborhood. Forest Hills in Queens. Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn. Throgs Neck in the Bronx. Stapleton on Staten Island. Jacobs' beloved West Village in Manhattan. There are so many others.

It was Jacobs' masterpiece—"The Death and Life of Great American Cities"—that argued that the health of the City as a whole depended on the vibrancy of its urban neighborhoods. At a time when grand visions of urban renewal were spurring planners to pave over entire communities, Jacobs stood at the forefront of a movement to preserve the City's most fundamental building blocks.

And today, as a result in part of Jacobs' efforts to preserve New York's neighborhoods, New York City is as vibrant as ever. We are a magnet for what Richard Florida has termed the "Creative Class"—the highly-educated, highly-motivated young people who are key to economic growth.

And while scholars like Robert Putnam worry about the deterioration of social capital—afraid that Americans are interacting less and more likely to "bowl alone"—the neighborhoods of New York City continue to have dynamic communities that interact on the street with a swirl of new and old faces.

In fact, today, Jacobs' successes have left New Yorkers with a new set of challenges. Because so many people want to live in New York, property values have skyrocketed, and tax bills along with them. Because so many people are using our public transportation systems to get to work, we're forced to invest in

building new infrastructure. Because so many young people want to raise families in the five boroughs, we are forced to foot the bill for building more schools.

Our new burden in New York is to manage the success of Jane Jacobs' vision of a vibrant, dense, growing, exciting city.

And for that, we owe Jane Jacobs a debt of gratitude.

IN HONOR OF THE GRAND OPENING OF LONOKE COUNTY SAFE HAVEN, INC.

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to celebrate the grand opening of Lonoke County Safe Haven, Inc., an organization that provides critical resources to victims of domestic violence. This center will give women and their children a place to turn during difficult times and is a valuable addition to our community.

Lonoke County Safe Haven, Inc. was founded in March 2005 after J.M. Park read an article about a domestic violence victim. The article inspired Park and others to create a program where domestic violence victims can access vital recovery services. The organization began to help victims in September 2005, providing services such as a helpline, court advocacy, information on county, state, and federal resources, and recommendations for local shelters.

Today's grand opening is a significant step for Lonoke County Safe Haven, Inc. and a great milestone for our community. The new center, directed by Teresa Sims, will give battered women and their children throughout Lonoke County a place to seek assistance from dangerous living conditions. The center will provide services from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with hopes of one day expanding into a shelter of its own. The organization is already recognized by the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence for its work to strengthen the support system for battered women and their children.

On April 17, 2006, our community will gather to celebrate the grand opening of the Lonoke County Safe Haven, Inc. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation for this center and for all of the individuals committed to making Lonoke County a safer place for women and children.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE ENHANCEMENT AND NATIONAL GUARD EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006.

In support of this proposal, consider the following:

The U.S. continues to face a wide spectrum of threats at home and abroad, including terrorism, natural disasters, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other emerging perils. In meeting these threats, the U.S. relies heavily on the men and women of the National Guard. The National Guard is a force essential to the Nation's security and safety.

At no time in America's history has the National Guard played so critical a role in the security of our homeland and in our Nation's military objectives abroad.

The National Guard is a critical component of Department of Defense's contribution to the security of our Nation and has been key to the Department's accomplishments at home and abroad. Much of the success DOD has had would not have been possible without the participation of National Guard forces.

The National Guard's response to our Nation's emergencies in the post 9/11 world has been unparalleled.

The National Guard is a vital part of this Nation's security, and this country relies on the exemplary service provided this Nation by the members of the Guard, their families, their employers and their communities.

The men and women of the National Guard have earned the right to be represented at the highest levels of the Department of Defense.

To ensure the appropriate representation, manpower, training and equipment are provided to the National Guard for their future missions at home and abroad, the National Defense and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006:

Establishes the National Guard Bureau NGB as a joint activity of the Department of Defense rather than strictly of the Departments of the Army and Air Force as it is now.

Increases the Chief of the National Guard Bureau billet from the grade of Lieutenant General to General.

Tasks the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to serve as an advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and eliminates the current National Guard major general position established for that function.

Provides a seat on Joint Chiefs of Staff for the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Elevates responsibility for development of the NGB charter from the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force to the Secretary of Defense.

Specifies in law one of the functions of NGB to facilitate the use of National Guard forces for contingencies, military operations other than war, natural disasters and support to civil authorities—all in coordination with the States. This function exists in policy as part of the current NGB charter from the Departments of the Army and Air Force.

Requires NGB to, in coordination with the State Adjutant Generals identify gaps between Federal and State emergency response capabilities which might best be filled through military assistance to civil authorities and to make recommendations for National Guard programs and capabilities to fill those gaps, in coordination with the States.

Charges the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, in coordination with the State Adjutant Generals, to validate state requirements for military assistance to civil authorities, develop doctrine and training requirements, and acquire materiel, etc. for this purpose, in coordination with the States.

Requires a report on requirements for military assistance to civilian authorities that are

validated but not funded—which in essence will become an unfunded requirements list.

Changes the titles of the Directors of the Army and Air National Guard to Vice Chiefs of the National Guard Bureau for Army and Air respectively to reflect the unity of purpose inside the organization.

Prohibits growth in the size of the NGB staff in order to answer concerns about the possibility of the NGB bureaucracy growing as a result of the changes sought herein.

Strengthens the Total Force talent pool by encouraging the Department of Defense to include Reserve Component major generals of the line for promotion to fill Lieutenant General positions.

Requires that the Deputy Commander of NORTHCOM be a National Guard officer.

The Committee on Government Reform and the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation and Response to Hurricane Katrina, have conducted oversight investigations and have held many hearings that have focused on the contributions of the men and women of the National Guard. The following are findings that I submit for the RECORD. These 50 findings represent the States in the Union we seek to defend.

1. Within hours of the attacks on the World Trade Center, 1,500 New York National Guard troops reported for duty. Within 24 hours of the attacks, over 8,000 New York National Guard Soldiers and Air men and women were on active duty supporting New York State's security needs. These troops provided not just a calming presence on the streets of New York during unsettling times; they provided New York's first responders with critical perimeter security support, refueling for civilian emergency vehicles, emergency lighting, power generation, communications, emergency transportation, engineering assets and other logistical support.

2. At the request of the President, State Governors supplemented the security of the Nation's airports with National Guard personnel. Their missions encompassed over 400 airports in 52 States and territories. National Guard troops along the northern and southern borders were used to support the U.S. Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Border Patrol in the heightened post 9/11 security posture.

3. In contrast to Hurricane Andrew, 1992, in which National Guard forces constituted 24 percent of the military response, National Guard forces represented more than 70 percent of the military force for Hurricane Katrina.

4. The response to Hurricane Katrina proved that the National Guard is the Nation's first military responder and that the overwhelming majority of forces that respond to disasters in the United States will be National Guard who will be on the scene before the Department of Defense is requested to respond.

5. More than 9,700 National Guard soldiers and airmen were in New Orleans by August 30. National Guard deployed over 30,000 additional troops within 96 hours of the storms passing. In wake of the Hurricane Katrina devastation, the National Guard mobilized over 50,000 personnel in support of hurricane relief in the largest and fastest domestic deployment since World War II, saving over 17,000 lives. The Air National Guard flew nearly 3,500 flights and over 12,000 tons of cargo in support of all Hurricane relief in the last year.

6. The National Guard Bureau will be a part of any large-scale emergency response. As demonstrated during the Hurricane Katrina response, the National Guard Bureau is a significant joint force provider for homeland security missions.

7. The National Guard is continuously on active duty supporting State security missions, Federal security missions under Operation Noble Eagle and overseas military operations as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and more are engaged in regularly scheduled training and operational requirements around the Nation and the world. Under Title 32, counter-drug activities are a daily operational mission of the National Guard, fortifying a longstanding successful relationship with civil authorities.

8. The Department of the Army and the Department of the Air Force could not fulfill current title 10 responsibilities without the Army and Air National Guard. In 2005, National Guard units at one time made up 50 percent of the combat forces in Iraq.

9. The National Guard has mobilized over 340,000 soldiers and 46,000 airmen supporting the Global War on Terror since September 11, 2001.

10. Since September 11, 2001, more than 85 percent of the Army National Guard has been mobilized. Since September 11, 2001, the Air National Guard has flown over 226,000 sorties accumulating over 680,000 flying hours. These deployments abroad have created a battle hardened and seasoned force of experienced veterans ready for the challenges of the 21st century.

11. National Guard forces have provided: 55 percent of the Army's combat capability; 55 percent of the Air Force's airlift capability; 50 percent of the Army strategic and tactical manpower; 45 percent of all in-flight refueling missions; 33 percent of all aircraft in Operation Iraqi Freedom; 100 percent of Operation Enduring Freedom A-10 missions; 66 percent of Operation Iraqi Freedom A-10 missions; 45 percent of all F-16 fighter missions; 86 percent of Operation Iraqi Freedom tanker sorties; 94 percent of Strategic Air Defense Alert; and 75 percent of all domestic combat air patrols in the Global War on Terror.

12. The National Guard offers unique efficiencies between State and Federal, and domestic and overseas missions, operating under three different command relationships: Federal funding and Federal control; Federal funding and State control; and State funding and State control.

13. National Guardsmen and women are their State's primary emergency response force, providing support in their communities and to civil authorities and other first responders throughout their States.

14. The National Guard is invaluable to civil support mission, homeland defense and emergency preparedness. The National Guard has an undeniable record of military assistance to civilian authorities since the birth of this Nation, responding heroically and meeting every mission asked of them, particularly in times of crisis—terrorism, natural disasters, plane crashes, blizzards, wildfires, floods.

15. There must be strong agreement between State and Federal leadership as to the operational objectives during emergencies. State concerns about maintaining sovereignty must be respected. Governors, who are most intimately familiar with and better understand

the National Guard's unique capabilities, must retain the ability and authority to deploy their National Guard forces in times of crisis.

16. Governors using State-to-State emergency mutual assistance compacts are an integral part of the use of National Guard resources in responding to emergencies at home.

17. The National Guard and State Adjutants General provide an invaluable nexus of coordination between Federal and State planning, exercising and response to emergencies and disasters. Over 50 percent of State Adjutants General are also in charge of their State's Emergency Management operations, thereby offering unparalleled integration of planning, preparation and response capabilities in emergencies.

18. National Guard forces are also uniquely positioned to engage within the U.S. and its territories by virtue of their geographic dispersal and relationships to State and local governments.

19. The National Guard is familiar with the local area and local culture. The National Guard has close ties with first responders such as local and State law enforcement, fire departments, and other emergency service providers. The local community relies upon the National Guard because they are part of the community. National Guard personnel are more likely to have more experience working with local responders than the active component.

20. WMD Civil Support Teams are a specialized homeland security capability based entirely in the National Guard.

21. As America prepares for an influenza pandemic, the National Guard has more domestic response training and decentralized capabilities than any other military organization and is ready to respond on a moment's notice.

22. The National Guard Bureau has proved its ability to plan for and respond to natural and man-made events with the development of essential concepts including: Joint Force Headquarters-State, Joint Task Force State, CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Packages, CERFP, National Guard Reaction Force, NGRF, and the Joint CONUS Communications Support Environment, JCCSE.

23. The Department of Defense has not adapted to the significant role of the National Guard in this Nation's security.

24. The Department of Defense, the Department of the Army and the Department of the Air Force have not sufficiently integrated the National Guard into planning, procuring or decision-making processes.

25. The Department of Defense, the Department of the Army and the Department of the Air Force do not have a long-term strategy to equip the National Guard at a high level of readiness for overseas or domestic missions.

26. The Department of Defense does not adequately resource or equip the National Guard for its current operational missions. Currently the National Guard receives only 4.5 percent of the Department of Defense's budget.

27. The Army National Guard has long been equipped at less than war-time readiness levels and is forced to transfer equipment to deploying units. Army National Guard units that have returned from overseas deployments have also been directed by the Department of the Army to leave behind hundreds and in many cases, thousands of equipment items for

use by follow on units. Army officials do not track accurately or develop plans to replace this Guard equipment.

28. Army and Air National Guard forces are generally expected to perform homeland defense and civil support missions only with equipment supplied for their warfighting mission or equipment supplied by the States.

29. In the current budget, the Department of the Air Force does not fund the Air Sovereignty Alert, ASA, mission of the Air National Guard at full capacity.

30. During the BRAC process, the Air Force failed to adequately solicit input of National Guard Bureau leadership and systemically failed to confer with State Adjutants General.

31. When developing Future Total Force Strategy, the Air Force has failed to adequately consult Air National Guard leaders and State Adjutants General.

32. The Department of Defense does not have adequate knowledge of the role of the National Guard at home nor has it incorporated the National Guard's significant capabilities into plans for homeland defense or security. Left unchecked, the Department of Defense will continue to ignore the Federal requirements of the National Guard to perform homeland defense and civil support missions.

33. The Department of Defense has not recognized the value of including State Adjutants General in all homeland defense and military support to civilian authority planning.

34. The Department of Defense has not recognized that Governors will rely on National Guard manpower and equipment before relying on Federal forces.

35. Although DOD has a Strategy for Homeland Defense and Civil Support, which recognizes the National Guard's critical role in Federal and State missions, the strategy does not detail what the Army or Air National Guard's role or requirements will be in implementing the strategy.

36. The Department of Defense and Northern Command have not articulated specific requirements or capabilities that National Guard forces need during major homeland disasters. Without formal requirements, equipment deemed necessary for the National Guard to assist civilian authorities in Katrina had not been purchased by the Department of the Army or the Department of the Air Force.

37. The readiness of the National Guard to perform homeland missions that may be needed in the future is unknown because the National Guard's roles in these missions has not been defined; requirements for manpower, equipment and training have not been established; and preparedness standards and measures have not been developed by the Department of Defense. The Department of Defense does not provide for the purchase of equipment for the National Guard specifically for military assistance to civilian authorities.

38. WMD Civil Support Teams' face challenges and shortfalls in personnel, equipment acquisition and facilities under current Department of Defense and service budgets.

39. Lack of coordination of National Guard and active duty forces hampered the military response to Katrina. Advance planning between active-duty personnel and the Guard is vital during emergencies. The Department of Defense and the National Guard must plan and exercise together to prepare for events in the homeland.

40. National Guard Bureau leadership and State Adjutants General are not adequately involved in Department of Defense planning

guidance developed at Northern Command, including concept of operations plans and functional plans for military support to civilian authorities.

41. There was a lack of coordination of Joint Task Force Katrina and the National Guard Joint Forces headquarters in supporting states.

42. The Department of Defense has not adequately incorporated or funded the National Guard to participate in joint exercises in military assistance to civil authorities, which would have allowed for a more effective response to Hurricane Katrina and other homeland emergencies.

43. Northern Command does not have adequate insight into State response capabilities or adequate interface with governors, which contributed to a lack of mutual understanding and trust during the Katrina response.

44. There is an unresolved tension between the Department of Defense and the States regarding the role of the military in emergency response that could be resolved if along with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense adopted and made the National Incident Management System a priority for emergency management.

45. The National Guard lacked communication equipment during Hurricane Katrina, suggesting that the Pentagon does not assign homeland defense and military assistance to civilian authorities a sufficiently high priority.

46. The Department of the Army decided to reduce Army National Guard force structure and end-strength without substantive consultation with National Guard Bureau leaders or State Adjutants General, and the Air Force has decided to reduce Air National Guard force structure and end-strength without substantive consultation with National Guard Bureau leaders or State Adjutants General.

47. The Department of the Army currently plans to scale back the Army National Guard to 324,000 soldiers from 350,000. The Department of the Air Force plans to scale back the Air National Guard by 14,000 airmen and women. To cut Guard manpower in this time of increased homeland need, and the fluxation of current Department of Defense transformation policies affecting the Army and Air National Guard, creates an unacceptable risk to the security of this Nation.

48. States and Governors are not adequately represented at the Department of Defense when planning and exercising for homeland events.

49. The role of the National Guard Bureau as the channel of communications between the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security and the States needs to be enhanced.

50. USNORTHCOM and its subordinate headquarters lack knowledge of their domestic theater of operations, specifically State emergency plans and resources, and knowledge of National Guard resources. USNORTHCOM and its subordinate headquarters need to be reformed to include substantially increased National Guard general officer command presence and participation by other senior National Guard personnel in all levels of their operations.

Mr. Speaker, the front line in the global war against terrorism is right here at home. Cold War structures and distinctions separating projected active duty forces and stateside reserve components no longer meet the strategic im-

peratives of this century. This proposal updates those structures to reflect the integral role of the National Guard in the modern battle plan and ensures the Guard will have the clout and resources necessary to meet that vital mission.

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.,
Washington, DC, April 25, 2006.

Hon. THOMAS M. DAVIS III,
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DAVIS: The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) applauds your introduction of a House version of the National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006.

This legislation is a powerful first step in providing the appropriate presence for the leadership of the National Guard in the decision making processes of the Department of Defense. The security of American citizens was forever altered on September 11, 2001. Since that date, the National Guard has grown in stature and importance as a full partner in ensuring their well-being.

It is completely logical that the policies and procedures that heretofore have guided the effective use of the National Guard should be considered for revision in light of the sweeping changes to the missions and employment of our armed forces. NGAUS looks forward to working with you and with members of the United States Senate in passage of similarly innovative legislation.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the National Guard.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN M. KOPER,
Brigadier General (ret), President.

ADJUTANTS GENERAL ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2006.

Hon. THOMAS M. DAVIS III,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN DAVIS: The Adjutants General Association of the United States heralds the introduction of the National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006. This legislation which you have created along with members of the U.S. Senate bravely seeks to ensure the National Guard will have a strong voice in matters of national security, homeland defense, and homeland security.

Events associated with Hurricane Katrina, BRAC, and QDR highlighted important instances where National Guard leadership was not consulted on key matters of national interest and citizen safety. As the National Guard faces major issues in re-equipping and transformation, a strong voice in defense circles is more vital than ever.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of appreciative Adjutants General.

Sincerely,

ROGER P. LEMPKE,
Major General, Adjutant General.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am again re-introducing legislation that is intended to help solve the shortage of available, afford-

able child care facilities. In my congressional district in New York City, more than half of all women with pre-school children are in the workforce and the need for child care is enormous. This is not a local problem but one that is national in nature.

The Children's Development Commission Act or Kiddie Mac, will address this problem by authorizing HUD to issue guarantees to lenders who are willing to lend money to build or rehabilitate child care facilities. It also creates the Children's Development Commission which will certify the loans and create federal child care standards. Kiddie Mac will also give micro-loans to facilities which need to make the necessary changes to come up to licensing standards, as well as provide them with lower cost fire and liability insurance. Through some of the premiums paid by the lenders, a non-profit foundation will be formed which would focus on research on child care and development, as well as create educational materials to guide potential providers through the certification process.

I have introduced this legislation in several past Congresses but the need for it has only grown more acute. I urge my colleagues to consider the proposal and join me in enacting it this year.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL AT BEIRUT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Centennial Anniversary of the American Community School at Beirut.

The American Community School was founded in 1905 as the Faculty School by a group of American missionary families living in Lebanon. The school was supported by the American University of Beirut, the American Presbyterian Mission and Aramco. It was the first American K-12 school in Lebanon and is an independent, non-profit, co-educational school chartered in the state of New York. Today, the school's enrollment exceeds 1,000 and the school is an ambassador of American education to the Middle East.

The American Community School's student population has changed over the years and is now composed of a diverse community made up of students from American, Lebanese and international families. The school offers numerous activities to supplement the education of its students. Alumni of the school have gone on to do great things, with many of them excelling in careers serving the United States government and Lebanese-American relations.

I would like to commend the American Community School's leadership for their innovative vision in implementing and carrying out the school's mission of providing quality American-style education. The school's teachers should be recognized for their consistent dedication and for inspiring their students to pursue a well-rounded, life-long education. Finally, past and present students of the school should be applauded for their success in such an independent, challenging environment.

The school is appreciative of the support of the United States Congress. America's direct

support of this and other educational institutions in the Middle East plays an important role in our public diplomacy efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute to the American Community School at Beirut in this year of its Centennial Anniversary. I congratulate the school on its distinguished history and look forward to its promising future.

HONORING DON DEHART

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don DeHart, a compassionate and caring man who dedicated his life to helping those in need.

Don DeHart grew up in Indiana and quickly became an indispensable part of his father's construction business. He earned three engineering degrees and became the general manager of a successful road construction firm. Don also volunteered as a pastor in remote rural areas, but became restless because, as his wife Eva said, "he felt there was more to God's work than thicker cushions on pew seats."

Don and Eva began making mission trips to help impoverished Haitians in the late 1960s. They eventually co-founded "For Haiti With Love," a charity dedicated to providing much needed medical and other services to poor Haitians. The DeHarts eventually moved to Florida to be closer to their mission work.

The DeHarts built a small medical clinic which helped provide basic medical services to some of Haiti's neediest people. Though he was not trained as a medical doctor, Don quickly became an expert on treating burns, which are quite common in Haiti, saving many lives in the process. The DeHarts also helped nourish some of the country's poorest residents in Cap Haitien, Haiti's second-largest city.

Don befriended one of his patients, a young girl named Roseline, who had a crippling spinal condition. Don and Eva brought her to America for surgery, and when her mother died, adopted her. Roseline, now 22, graduated from one of the fine high schools in my congressional district and has taken over her adoptive father's mission.

Mr. Speaker, Don DeHart left this earthly life on April 15 after a long battle against cancer, a disease he had beaten several decades ago. Don lived a life of service and compassion, leaving no doubt that the world is a much better place for having had him in it. I hope his friends and family can take comfort knowing that his legacy will live on long after our warm words of remembrance are forgotten. May he rest in peace and may God watch over his family and those he dedicated his life to helping.

TRIBUTE TO EDNA EDWARDS PRITCHETT

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Edna Edwards Pritchett on the

occasion of her 90th birthday which will be celebrated on April 28, 2006.

Edna Pritchett has been a pillar in our community. She has lived her entire life in the First Congressional District of the Great State of Missouri. She is a 1934 graduate of the historic Sumner High School and was the second of three generations of her family to attend that landmark institution. During her outstanding career spanning 42 years, Mrs. Pritchett has served with distinction with the American Cancer Society and the Homer G. Phillips Hospital—another landmark institution in my congressional district. She also worked in several capacities with the St. Louis Board of Education.

In 1969, Mrs. Pritchett joined the Monsanto Company and retired from its International Division in 1979. But, her service to our community did not end at that point. She continued to be a conscientious citizen and a neighborhood beacon—serving in a number of capacities including Neighborhood Watch and First Night Programs which she continues to this very day.

Through the years, Mrs. Pritchett has given the full measure of her abilities, dedicated services and wise counsel to the St. Louis community. She gave tirelessly of her time as a Girl Scout Troup Leader at the All Saints Episcopal Church and later as a poll worker with the St. Louis County Board of Elections. She also volunteered with the University City Public Schools as a reading advocate for children and with other educational programs throughout the school district.

Edna Pritchett was the devoted wife for 43 years to Raymond W. Pritchett until his passing in 1985. She has been a dedicated homemaker, a loving, nurturing and caring mother to her four children, Mattelyn, Edna Jean, Harriet and Raymond, as well as a trusted confidant and friend to her late sister, Regina Edwards. Her shining personality and indomitable spirit has brought warmth and cheer to her family and into the lives of all who have had the opportunity to know her.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such a respected and beloved constituent. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great humanity and lifetime achievements of Mrs. Edna Edwards Pritchett and extend my very best wishes to her as she celebrates this great milestone with her family and friends.

A TRIBUTE TO VINCENT HO SANG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Vincent HoSang, a distinguished member of the business community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, Vincent HoSang was born in Springfield St. James, Jamaica WI to Mr. and Mrs. Henry HoSang who migrated from China in the early 1900s. He is the eighth child of ten, six boys and four girls. Mr. HoSang's parents operated a store, similar to a department store today, selling everything from groceries, hardware, and raw materials for making

clothes, to liquor. They also operated a bakery, which consisted of a brick-oven and a machine called a "doughbreak", everything else was done by hand; bear in mind that there was no electricity and no running water.

At the age of about 12 years, Mr. HoSang's parents sold the business and moved to Montego Bay where he went to live with an uncle. Mr. HoSang attended Cornwall College High School for three years and had the ambition of studying medicine; however, he had to leave school in fourth form to help his uncle in his grocery store. At age 19, Mr. HoSang rejoined his parents who had just started a grocery store in Kingston, at the same time; he also helped his cousin who operated a bakery nearby.

In February of 1968, Mr. HoSang migrated to the Bronx, New York. He got a job in a briefcase factory assembling attaché cases, where he received the minimum wage of \$1.60 an hour, taking home \$49 per week after taxes. Mr. HoSang stayed at that job for only a short time until he got a better job with Imperial Dairies on East 233rd Street in the Bronx, delivering milk to homes at night. In 1974, Mr. HoSang met his wife, Jeanette, who is from Spanish Town, Jamaica, and got married in August 1976 and started a family in April of 1977.

Mr. HoSang always wanted to have his own business ever since he came to the United States, but lack of capital, inexperience, and he admits, a bit of cowardice held him back just a bit. However, with the burning desire ever-present, Mr. HoSang waited until he saved some money and built up his courage to jump right in. In February 1978, Mr. HoSang and his wife bought a fast food store known as "Kingsbridge Delight" in the West Bronx, selling fried chicken, shrimp, ribs, and French fries. He knew the business was not making a profit but their goal was to introduce the Jamaican cuisine and patties. Jeanette was very instrumental in the development of the Jamaican dishes and after about six months, some long hours per day for seven days a week, and a lot of sacrifices, the business started to show a small profit. In 1980, Sunrise Bakery on Dyre Avenue, which was owned by another West Indian, became available. Mr. and Mrs. HoSang bought it in December 1980 with the intention of making it a full-fledged Jamaican bakery and changed its name to Royal Caribbean Bakery and operated as a retail bakery. In 1984, they expanded into a 15,000 sq. ft. facility on East 233rd street in the Bronx where Caribbean Food Delights was incorporated and became the frozen food division of Royal Caribbean Bakery. The company at this stage expanded into the wholesale trade. Three years later in 1987, both companies expanded into a 20,000 sq. ft. facility in Mount Vernon, New York.

The HoSangs took a big risk when they bought a 73,000 sq. ft. building on 10 acres of property in Tappan, New York in 1993 and named it Caribbean Food Delights. It produces a variety of Jamaican cuisine, including Jamaican style patties: beef, chicken, vegetable, soy and shrimp, which are oven-baked, unbaked, and microwaveable. New to their product line are jerk chicken and jerk fish patties. Today, the HoSangs own the largest Jamaican frozen food plant in the U.S. and the Mount Vernon plant continues to manufacture the bread, buns, cakes, and pastries.

The patties, which are in great demand, are available nationwide through retailers such as

Costco Wholesale, BJ's Wholesale Club, Sam's Wholesale Club, Wal-Mart, PathMark, Key Food, Stop & Shop, Met Food, and many other neighborhood supermarkets. The patties are also available through Caribbean Food Delights by contacting them directly at 845-398-3000. The company can also be found on the worldwide web at www.caribbeanfooddelights.com where one can learn more about product information and their upcoming JerkQ'zine Caribbean Grille Franchise Opportunities.

The kindness shown by Mr. HoSang and his wife in giving back to communities, organizations, churches, fundraisers and scholastic events such as the Penn Relays keeps multiplying their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Vincent HoSang, CEO, Royal Caribbean Bakery and Caribbean Food Delights, Inc., as he offers his talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Vincent HoSang's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

RECOGNIZING THE 84TH BIRTHDAY OF COACH GUY EDWARD PHIPPS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man whom I consider to be one of the greatest influences of my early years—a man whose guidance helped change the lives of several generations of young people. I rise today to honor my high school basketball coach, a talented, caring educator and my dear friend, Coach Guy Edward Phipps, who earlier this month celebrated his 84th birthday.

Coach Phipps was born in Hickman, Kentucky, and, after graduating from Hickman High School, served 3 years in the United States Army. Following his honorable discharge, he attended nearby Murray State University while also raising a family; his daughter, now Janice Phipps Jones, was only three years old when Coach Phipps began his college education.

After earning both a Bachelors Degree and a Masters Degree at Murray State University, he began his career as a teacher and basketball coach in Fulton, Kentucky. Four years later, he moved just across the state line to South Fulton, Tennessee, for a new coaching job. Three seasons later, Coach Phipps and his team set school history with an unprecedented 28-0 record in the regular season.

That same year, however, Coach Phipps and the Red Devils were beat in the district tournament by Union City High School in my hometown of Union City, Tennessee. Shortly thereafter, in 1956, Coach Phipps made the professional move 14 miles away to Union City High School to take over the coaching duties with the Union City Golden Tornadoes. Coach Phipps helped lead the team to five consecutive district and regional tournament wins and brought the school to its first-ever state tournament appearance.

In 1959, I joined the Union City High School basketball team as a sophomore and was

honored to train under Coach Phipps for three years. His leadership helped teach my teammates and me sportsmanship, teamwork and maturity that have been important to me throughout my life, and I feel confident that my former teammates are as grateful as I am to have had the opportunity in our formative years to work with such an exceptionally talented leader.

Coach Phipps also taught courses in industrial arts and engineering drawing while at Union City High School. He was known in our school district for a special goal he set—to choose a different student every day or every week whom he felt needed a friend and someone to believe in him or her. This approach touched the lives of many students over Coach Phipps' career and is still a tradition among many of the educators in northwest Tennessee.

After a brief time working at a local doctor's clinic, Coach Phipps chose to return to Union City High School, but this time as principal, where he continued to serve for 4 years. Later he served as head basketball coach at David Lipscomb College in Nashville and as dean of students at Nashville Tech.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you and our colleagues will join me in honoring the 84th birthday of a man who has been a hero in Tennessee and Kentucky for generations. The true measure of a successful educator is how many young people's lives he has touched. As one of Coach Phipps' former players and a good friend of his today, I know he meets that test of being a truly successful teacher and coach.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH NAGLER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most extraordinary women in the Bay Area, Ruth Nagler. Mrs. Nagler has lived in the 12th District of California for the past 50 plus years and her contributions to the community deserve recognition.

Ruth Nagler was born and raised in New York. Nagler received an undergraduate degree from College of the City of New York in 1943, and subsequently received a Master of Arts in education from New York University in 1945. She and her husband, Edmund, are parents to three children.

Mr. Speaker, after moving to San Mateo Ruth Nagler immediately immersed herself in our community, joining the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Peninsula in 1951, eventually serving as the president of this valuable organization for three years. In addition, Ruth Nagler served for 10 years as a trustee of the San Mateo City Elementary School District Board, where she was a leader and integral component of one of the earliest state school desegregation programs in California, and in our nation. With this background, Ruth Nagler was the perfect choice to become Director of Community Education for Canada College, one of the three colleges of the San Mateo County Community College District. Ruth Nagler left her mark both at Canada College and at the San Mateo County Community College District during the 20 years she worked

for the institution. During that time, she initiated, designed, developed and administered non-credit short courses, workshops, conferences and special events for more than 48,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, since retirement Ruth Nagler has remained active in community activities, and in fact her involvement in the community is too long to list here but allow me to highlight a few of the things she has done. She was coordinator of the "San Mateo County 2000" drive for the public school system, she was chair of the Friends of the Advisory Council on Women, a member of the Mills-Peninsula Hospital Board of Trustees, chair of the San Mateo Performing Arts Center Board of Directors, and directed a successful effort to refurbish the High School District's theater.

In addition to these organizations and her continued work with San Mateo League of Women Voters, Ruth Nagler has also selflessly devoted herself to a myriad of community service organizations including; Planned Parenthood, American Association of University Women, United Nations Association, San Mateo County American Cancer Society, San Mateo Parents Cooperative Nursery School, and the San Mateo City Citizens Task Force to Study Needs of Seniors. Mr. Speaker, the wide range of associations with which Ruth Nagler has been involved clearly highlight her commitment to our community.

For her diligent work, she has been duly recognized over the years. Notably, in 2003, she was named "Woman of the Year" by California Assemblyman Gene Mullin. In 1990, Ruth Nagler was the recipient of the Beyond War Foundation award for "helping to build a global community and thereby create a secure and sustainable future for all."

Mr. Speaker, Ruth Nagler is an inspirational leader and we can learn much from her actions, her leadership and her ability to create change. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in tribute to Ruth Nagler for her tireless efforts to better the San Mateo County community and our nation.

CONGRATULATING JUDGE ROBERT C. BROOMFIELD FOR RECEIVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA'S DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Robert C. Broomfield, Senior United States District Judge and a 1961 graduate of the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. It was my pleasure to work with Judge Broomfield when I was a County Supervisor, and I always found him to be reasonable, understanding, and well respected by all, whether they be private citizens, elected officials, or his judicial peers. Therefore I was pleased to learn that he was being honored by his alma mater on April 22nd with its Distinguished Citizen Award, and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank him for many years of service to the nation and the State of Arizona.

Judge Broomfield has served with distinction in the courts for more than 34 years, first as a judge and presiding judge on the Maricopa

County Superior Court and, since 1985, as a judge in the federal system. In 2002, the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist appointed him to the Foreign Intelligence Security Act Court where he was one of 11 judges rotating assignments. In each of these endeavors, he has earned respect as a keen jurist, a superb administrator, and as a person who exemplifies the best traditions of integrity and professionalism.

As a judge of the United States District Court for the District of Arizona, and its Chief Judge from 1994 to 1999, he has served on numerous circuit court committees and in national positions by appointment of the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. He has served on, or chaired, at least 15 committees designed to improve court operations and the administration of justice. In addition, he was a member of the Arizona Town Hall for over a decade, a Director of the community leadership association Phoenix Together, a trusted advisor for youth groups, and a pleasure to work with through the appropriations process as we labored to secure funding for the Sandra Day O'Connor Courthouse.

His colleagues characterize Judge Broomfield in laudatory terms, noting his self-effacing manner, quiet integrity, and single-minded commitment to the continued vitality of democratic governance through an independent, fair, and impartial judicial system.

Mr. Speaker, I join my friends at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law and its Law College Association in commending a man whose life's work so well defines American citizenship, leadership, and service.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT SAN FRANCISCO EARTH- QUAKE OF 1906

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago on April 18, 1906 at 5:12 a.m. the Bay Area was struck by one of the most catastrophic natural disasters in modern history as San Francisco, a great city of 400,000, was shaken to rubble and burned.

The quake, estimated at a magnitude of 7.8, killed some 3,000 people and rendered homeless as many as three-quarters of the entire city's population. Other disastrous consequences soon followed as a massive firestorm created by ruptured natural gas mains swept across the city. The quake's destruction of water mains and cisterns left the fire department able to do little but dynamite buildings in a futile effort to stop the relentless advance of the flames. Separate fires converging in the downtown area created an inferno that destroyed nearly 500 city blocks and took four days to quell.

Officials of local, state and federal agencies attempted to deal with the massive chaos, but disruption of communications and the scale of destruction made it difficult to maintain order.

The aftermath of the quake, Mr. Speaker, was even more catastrophic than its initial effects. As many as 300,000 San Franciscans were homeless and there was great risk of disease, water contamination, and crime. The

total scale of damage was immense with over 80% of the city destroyed and over \$400 million in damage in 1906 dollars. Adjusted for today's dollars, the cost would be over \$8 billion in damage. I know some of you have read or are reading Simon Winchester's *A Crack in the Edge of the World: America and the Great California Earthquake of 1906*. Winchester recounts this extraordinary story of disaster, response and recovery, and I recommend his excellent book.

Mr. Speaker, the recovery from the quake changed San Francisco forever. The response to the disaster was truly remarkable—and much more impressive than the United States government's response to the Katrina disaster last fall.

Following the devastation, the call for help went out. The first relief train with wagonloads of packaged food and medicine arrived in Oakland from Los Angeles at midnight on the day of the disaster—less than 20 hours after the first rumbling of the earthquake. The War Department and Congress acted. Trains were sent from every corner of the nation. Every military tent in the country was sent to house the refugees. Within weeks ten percent of the United States Army was in the Bay Area.

A U.S. military officer, second in command at the Presidio, Brigadier General Fred Funston, did not wait for orders, did not wait for his boss to return from out of town, and did not wait or hesitate to take the initiative. He immediately ordered troops from the Presidio and Fort Mason to come to the aid of the city, and he sent dispatches demanding help.

Mr. Speaker, the House Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina recently released its final report entitled, "A Failure of Initiative." This 379-page report details 90 findings of failure at all levels of government and lays primary fault with the passive reaction and misjudgments of top Administration officials, including the Homeland Security Secretary, the Homeland Security Operations Center and the White House Homeland Security Council. It concludes that "earlier presidential involvement could have speeded the response" because the President could have cut through all bureaucratic resistance.

The White House has issued its own report, "The Federal Response To Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned," which identified 17 lessons the executive branch learned after reviewing and analyzing the response to Katrina, made 125 specific recommendations to the President, and listed 11 critical actions to be completed before June 1, 2006, when hurricane season begins again.

It is not like the events of Katrina were unique or original. The disaster in San Francisco a century earlier gave us clear indications of what to do and what not to do. On February 16, 2006 the San Francisco Chronicle editorialized that there is "a bigger message than the rearview-mirror blame-game that goes with government bungling. California and the Bay Area remain at nature's mercy from weather, earthquakes or fire. It's time to check and recheck local plans to make sure everyone's on the same page, and emergency planners can take on the dicey game of managing disasters on the fly."

And furthermore, "Emergency workers have tried to anticipate such disasters, working hard to prepare the response of public-safety agencies and the public. Still, as Katrina showed,

the results can hinge on official judgment and initiative. Let's make sure we're ready."

In early 2001, FEMA warned against three major disasters that could face the nation: a terrorist attack on New York City, a major hurricane in New Orleans, and an earthquake in San Francisco. Yet according to a recent letter from Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff to California Senator BARBARA BOXER, the Department of Homeland Security has no specific federal strategy for responding to a catastrophic earthquake in California and will depend primarily on local and state efforts. As Benjamin Franklin warned, by failing to prepare we prepare to fail.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember the 100th Anniversary of the great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire I commend the people of San Francisco who demonstrated the determination of recovery and renewal that rebuilt the great city by the Bay. To me that San Francisco spirit is a key part of the American spirit. It is the dream that brought the 49ers of the Gold Rush era to California, and it was the dream that rebuilt San Francisco after the disaster of 1906. It was the dream that built Silicon Valley, that brought to California the miracle of biotechnology and stem cell research.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending the people of San Francisco and the Bay Area as they celebrate this historic anniversary, and in calling on federal, state and local government officials to learn from the tragic events of the Earthquake of 1906 and the equally tragic events of the Katrina disaster of 2005 to prepare for the catastrophic events that will surely come in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHUCK WORLEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chuck Worley for service to the State of Nevada.

Chuck has dedicated his time for the last three years to help the Bureau of Land Management, BLM, with public land stewardship and to help protect recreation access to public lands. He established the Friends of Wilson Canyon in 2003, and has been an active member since. Prior to the creation of this organization, the BLM was unable to provide a consistently strong level of recreation management to Wilson Canyon due to its distance and location from personnel. Chuck, along with the Friends of Wilson Canyon, have contributed more than 800 hours of volunteer labor, and \$12,000 worth of materials, tools and heavy equipment to install Off Highway Vehicle, OHV, management barriers and informational signage in Wilson Canyon.

Through his volunteer service and working with the Friends of Wilson Canyon, Chuck initiated on-site awareness meetings with the U.S. Forest Service, BLM, Lyon County and local residents to avoid protective land closures. He then initiated volunteer action to work towards preserving and protecting the natural resources and public land recreation opportunities by organizing clean-ups, applying for and being awarded Recreation Trails

Grants and participating in the development of long-term management of the area. Worley also created and maintains the Friends of Wilson Canyon Web site which helps keep the public informed and teaches proper land use ethics and OHV responsibility.

Because of his dedicated service, Chuck has been chosen as one of the Bureau of Land Management's, BLM, national volunteer award winners. The national Making a Difference volunteer awards will be presented May 11, 2006, at a special ceremony at the Department of the Interior in Washington, DC. Chuck is one of 8 winners around the U.S. chosen for his outstanding volunteer service to BLM. The BLM's Making a Difference national awards program supports the President's call for increased service to America and is part of the Take Pride in America initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Chuck Worley on the floor of the House today. I commend him for his service to southern Nevada.

REMARKS OF DEMOCRATIC LEADER OF THE HOUSE, CONGRESSWOMAN NANCY PELOSI, ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1906 SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, very, very early on the morning of April 18, 2006, I joined thousands of San Franciscans and Bay Area residents on the corner of Kearny and Market Streets at Lotta's Fountain—one of San Francisco's most beloved landmarks. The Fountain was donated to the citizens of San Francisco in 1875 by Lotta Crabtree, a performer who began her show business career at age 6 dancing for miners in the gold country and eventually becoming one of America's most popular performers. During the 1906 Earthquake the fountain became a famous meeting place and bulletin board for families and survivors. It is the oldest surviving landmark in the city of San Francisco, and survivors of the 1906 Earthquake still gather for reunions around the fountain at each anniversary of the '06 quake.

This year's commemoration was a celebration of the centennial anniversary of the Earthquake. My dear friend and our most distinguished colleague Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom spoke at this historic occasion remembering this great tragedy. They spoke of the courage and the pioneering spirit of the people of San Francisco following this devastating event.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the 100th anniversary of the great San Francisco Earthquake, and I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the excellent statement by Congresswoman PELOSI be placed in the RECORD.

THE PEOPLE OF SAN FRANCISCO DID THE IMPOSSIBLE—REBUILT OUR CITY BETTER THAN BEFORE ADDRESS OF CONGRESSWOMAN NANCY PELOSI

Good Morning, San Francisco. Thank you all for coming this morning, and thank you Mayor Newsom. It is appropriate that the

Mayor would be presiding over San Francisco rising. He comes from good pioneer stock. His family was here at the time of the earthquake, and they have contributed to rebuilding this city ever since. Let's hear it again for Mayor Newsom.

I am pleased to be here with my colleague Tom Lantos of California and other members of the official family of San Francisco.

To some, it may have seemed impossible that San Francisco could be rebuilt when they saw this headline in the Call Chronicle Examiner on April 19th: "Earthquake and Fire: San Francisco in Ruins." But they had faith and they had the San Francisco Fire Department.

The City of San Francisco lived by the words of our patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi: "Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." That is what the people of San Francisco did. The Mayor said 250,000 were left homeless. They lived in our parks, built temporary shelters, thousands lost loved ones, and they gathered here at this fountain to find news of the missing. Separated by class and race and neighborhood, they came together in common cause.

Frances Mae Duffy, who was 11 months old at the time of the quake and is here this morning, said it best: "No matter how rich or poor you were, you got shook up just the same."

One week after the quake, Governor Pardee declared, "I expect to see the great metropolis replaced on a much grander scale than ever before." And indeed that happened.

A year later, just a year later, a newspaper reported that "a miracle was wrought. Discipline was restored in a day; orderly government was established in a week; relief was organized almost before there was hunger to assuage; reorganization was planned before the destruction was complete, and begun before the ashes had cooled; courage was never lost." That is our San Francisco.

Courage was never lost because the San Franciscans of a century ago were pioneers or they were children of pioneers. Winston Churchill could have been speaking of them and our great survivors here whom we honor when he said: "We have not journeyed all this way across the centuries, across the oceans, across the mountains, across the prairies because we are made of sugar candy." We are made of sterner stuff. For many of them, just getting here was a dangerous journey—over the Rockies, through the swamps of Panama, across the Pacific, or around Cape Horn. They were pioneers and risk-takers. Once they arrived, they began building a city and a future limited only by their imagination. And when the earthquake and the fire leveled the city, their imagination was sparked even further, and they began rebuilding San Francisco better than before.

Today as we commemorate a tragedy, we also celebrate the survivors here today. You represent the heart and soul of San Francisco.

And when we have the moment of silence here at Lotta's Fountain we must remember that this is hallowed ground. This is where people came 100 years ago in the hopes of finding news of their loved ones, and sometimes they found their loved ones.

Over the years, these survivors and their fellow citizens did what was necessary, they did what was possible, and then did the impossible—they made San Francisco what it is today.

And so to the survivors I say, there's an Italian expression: Cent'anni—may you live 100 years. Well, they did. We are very fortunate indeed that they did and we are very honored by their great contribution to our city. Cent'anni all over again.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 91st anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide. We remember and mourn the mass killing of more than 1.5 million Armenians and the forced relocation of over one million others.

The painful memory of this brutal campaign is only compounded by the Turkish government's refusal to acknowledge the events of history. Instead of recognizing the crimes perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire, Turkish leaders have prosecuted journalists who write about the massacres. Turkey also continues to blockade Armenia and stifle its economic growth by locking Armenia out of the regional economy.

Despite these challenges, Armenia has worked diligently to overcome its difficult past and make progress on democratic reform, promote development and expand public services. The United States has been a strong partner in this effort. In March, the U.S. and Armenia signed a Millennium Challenge Corporation compact to provide \$235 million for programs to reduce rural poverty in Armenia over the next five years. Our close ties are further reinforced with the robust investment in the Armenian economy by Armenian businesses and communities across the United States.

Today, as we remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide, we endeavor to ensure that the atrocities are not forgotten. As we pay tribute to the survivors who preserved the history, culture and tradition that paved the way for the emergence of an independent Armenian state, let us pledge to continue building an even brighter future of prosperity and opportunity for the Armenian people.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANGELA BERG

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angela Berg, whose passion for nursing has greatly improved the lives of children.

Angela Berg began working as a licensed practical nurse in 1991 and subsequently got her nursing degree in 1992. She later earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing in 1999. Angela has worked with children throughout her career, and has looked for ways to assist parents to care for critically ill children. She has campaigning for their safety and creates plans to keep children with their families. Since 2001, Angela has been playing an advocacy role in the fight to immunize children from the threat of childhood disease. She has served as co-chair of the Southern Nevada Immunization Coalition and has created a number of campaigns to educate the medical community about the importance of immunization. Angela has also worked with the state of Nevada to create an electronic immunization database.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Angela Berg for her efforts to educate the public regarding the importance of childhood immunization. Her work has greatly contributed to the overall welfare of the children in the state of Nevada. I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING NORM SIELING

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Norm Sieling of Lake Crystal, Minnesota, on his induction into the Minnesota Future Farmers of America Hall of Fame.

The Minnesota Future Farmers of America strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. By maintaining the ideals of the past and incorporating the ideas of the future, the Minnesota Future Farmers of America continually seeks new, innovative ways to join agriculture and education with today's world of technology. The Hall of Fame is an honor reserved for those alumni who are a living example of this mission.

For his commitment to these ideals, Mr. Norm Sieling was inducted into Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame. As an agriculture teacher for 39 years in Lake Crystal, Minnesota, and a mentor for new agriculture teachers at the University of Minnesota, Mr. Sieling has demonstrated his dedication to the future of agriculture. He has helped students to achieve their goals, while encouraging the expansion of the agricultural industry.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Sieling on receiving this achievement. His dedicated service to the young farmers of Minnesota and the agricultural community is greatly appreciated.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANCES WRIGHT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Frances Wright, a resident of Henderson Nevada, who died at the age of 101.

Born Fanny Schneider on Feb. 14, 1905, in Poland, she was the third of four children of Louis and Molly Schneider. Her family came to the United States when she was 6 months old. Her father was a tailor for an upscale men's clothier on Temple Street in Los Angeles. By the time she was 10, Frances was an aspiring child actress who took the stage name of Fanny Snyder. She claimed to have had a big part in the classic and controversial 1915 silent film "The Birth of a Nation" and often told friends that she enjoyed working on the film, which paid 50 cents a day and included a box lunch.

Fanny attended Los Angeles Polytechnic High School where she lettered in volleyball,

swimming and softball and was captain of those teams. She also was senior class president. Her yearbook listed her as most likely to become the "first woman president of the United States." After graduating in 1921, Fanny became a part of the flapper scene while attending business school. In 1927 she married car salesman David Wright. They were married for 71 years. He died in 1998.

Adept at poker, mah-jongg, canasta and pan, Fanny was a longtime regular in Southern California card rooms. From the early 1950s until the late 1990s, she would alternate residences between Los Angeles and Las Vegas. She worked at Bains and Sloats, a women's clothing store on the Las Vegas strip, but Fanny's real love was hanging around Strip resorts, getting a deep tan at the poolside and hobnobbing with celebrities. She was a frequent patron at the Sahara's Casbah Lounge when Louis Prima and the Mary Kaye Trio performed there.

Unconventional to the end, Fanny took her doctors' advice last month to start using medical marijuana so she would get "the munchies" and eat to bulk up her thin frame. Fanny credited her longevity to being a good athlete in her youth, maintaining a good diet and taking a shot of bourbon at 4 p.m. every day.

In addition to her daughter, Wright is survived by a son, Ronald Wright of Los Angeles; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the life of Frances Wright on the floor of the House.

SIKH ACTIVIST ARRESTED FOR MAKING SPEECH—BETRAYAL OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was distressed to note that on April 20, Sikh activist Daljit Singh Bittu was arrested after making a speech. He was charged with sedition and "making inflammatory speeches." Mr. Bittu spoke out against the acquisition of the land of poor farmers by Punjab on behalf of private business firms. We have had cases in this country where the government has taken land by eminent domain for private usage, Mr. Speaker, and no one ever gets arrested for speaking out against it. Radio and television commentators across the spectrum have opposed this and they are still on the air. Yet in India, speaking out against this can now get you arrested.

Mr. Bittu is a proponent of freedom for Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. Recently, Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan, another Sikh activist, was arrested for predicting on television that Khalistan will be free by 2007. All he did was make a prediction. Is that a crime? If that is a crime, then the jails will overflow with sportscasters, weather reporters, psychics, and others who predict things routinely.

In addition, leaders of Dal Khalsa have been arrested for holding marches, making speech-

es, and raising a flag. A former member of Parliament was also arrested. It looks like the late General Narinder Singh was right when he said that "Punjab is a police state."

This is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker, especially as the United States and India move towards greater cooperation in numerous endeavors. We must insist on the full expression of democracy and basic human rights there if we are going to do business with India as a normal member of the family of free nations. And the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination.

The time has come to stop our aid and trade with India until it stops arresting people for making speeches, raising flags, and holding marches. The time has come for the U.S. Congress to put itself on record in support of freedom and self-determination for all the nations of South Asia. In 1948, India promised a free and fair plebiscite on the status of Kashmir. No such vote has ever been held in "the world's largest democracy." Why don't we insist on a simple democratic vote, with monitors, in Kashmir, in Punjab, Khalistan, in predominantly Christian Nagalim, and wherever people seek their freedom from India? As long as we turn a blind eye to the repression, the repression will continue. We must be the ones to strike a blow for freedom. Only when all people in the subcontinent enjoy freedom fully will there be stability and peace there.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan recently published a press release on the arrest of Daljit Singh Bittu. I would like to place it in the RECORD at this time.

DALJIT SINGH BITTU ARRESTED FOR MAKING SPEECH—WHERE IS FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN INDIA?

WASHINGTON, DC., April 26, 2006.—Indian police arrested Daljit Singh Bittu, leader of the Shiromani Khalsa Dal, on charges of sedition and "delivering inflammatory speeches" at Fatehgarh Channa. Sardar Bittu was arrested on April 21 from his home in Ludhiana. He was held by the police, who sought "foreign currency" and a CD of his speeches.

"Where is the freedom of speech in India?" asked Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "How can a democratic state arrest people for making speeches? This shows us again that there is no place for Sikhs in India."

India proudly bills itself as "the world's largest democracy" and its constitution guarantees freedom of speech. But the arrest of Sardar Bittu is the latest incident in which people have been arrested for making speeches, holding marches, or raising a flag. "The drive for freedom is alive and strong in Punjab," he said. "What kind of democracy arrests people for demanding freedom?" asked Dr. Aulakh.

Leaders of Dal Khalsa have been arrested for sponsoring marches in Punjab in support of a free Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. In addition, Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan was arrested for making a statement in which he made the prediction that Khalistan will be free by 2007. "Since when is making a prediction a crime in India?" Dr. Aulakh asked. "Will the weathermen in Delhi now be arrested for predicting rain?"

"The time is now to begin a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh. "India is showing its weakness with these arrests," he said. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Sahib, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh.'" Every day in prayer Sikhs recite "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa," which means "The khalsa shall rule."

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948 as well as tens of thousands of Christians throughout the country, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, tens of thousands of Muslims elsewhere in India, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others. An Indian newspaper reported that the police in Gujarat were ordered to stand aside in that massacre and not to get involved, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht S. Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. No one has been brought to justice for the Khalsa kidnapping and murder or for the murder of Jathedar Kaunke. Yet according to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, some since 1984!

Recently, a new wave of violence has erupted against Christian churches. States are enacting laws prohibiting Hindus from converting to any other religion. Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. None of the people involved has been tried. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial.

"Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "India's illegal occupation of our homeland, Khalistan, must end," he said: "India should act like a democracy and allow a free and fair plebiscite on independence for all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

SIKHS CELEBRATING 307TH ANNIVERSARY OF REVELATION OF KHALSA NATION BY GURU GOBIND SINGH SAHIB

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 26, 2006.—Sikhs all over the world have been celebrating Vaisakhi Day, the anniversary of the revelation of the Khalsa Panth by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. There have been parades in Washington, D.C., Vancouver, Stockton, Seattle, London, and many other cities. There will be an annual Sikh Day parade in New York on April 29. Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, will be speaking at the New York parade. In previous years, Dr. Aulakh's speeches have been punctuated by chants of "Khalistan Zindabad."

Vaisakhi Day is one of the most joyous days in the Sikh calendar, celebrating the emergence of the Khalsa Panth as a distinct people. Sikhs have been celebrating with devotion and reverence. Guru Gobind Singh proclaimed the sovereignty of the Sikh Nation: "In grieve Sikhin ko deon patshahi." Every morning and evening Sikhs recite "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa," meaning "the Khalsa shall rule," and "Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah," meaning "either the Khalsa is in rebellion or

the ruler." Sovereignty is the birthright of all people, and it is the heritage of the Sikh nation. As former Akal Takht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh has said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh."

"We must remind ourselves of our heritage by raising slogans of 'Khalistan Zindabad' and beginning a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh. "Whoever is honest and dedicated in leading that Shantmai Morcha deserves our support."

India is stepping up its efforts to repress the Sikh Nation's demand for freedom. Recently, Sardar Daljit Singh Bittu, leader of the Shiromani Khalsa Dal, was arrested for making a speech. Sikh activist Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan was arrested after he said on India's Zee TV that Khalistan will be free by 2007. Leaders of Dal Khalsa have been arrested for leading marches, making speeches, and raising the Khalistani flag. In January, Sikh farmers were expelled from Uttaranchal Pradesh and their land was seized. They were beaten up by the police. Their homes were bulldozed by paratroopers. Their homes in many cases were built using their life savings and by their own hands.

"It is evident that the Indian government is scared of the increasing amount of peaceful activism in Punjab in support of Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh. "The Ume of Khalistan's liberation is near. India will fall apart soon," he said. "This office has worked unwaveringly for a sovereign Khalistan for over 20 years," he noted.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. "We only hope that the breakup will be peaceful like that of Czechoslovakia and not violent like that of Yugoslavia," said Dr. Aulakh.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht S. Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. No one has been brought to justice for the Khalsa kidnapping and murder. Yet according to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, some since 1984!

"Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "India's illegal occupation of our homeland, Khalistan, must end," he said. "India should act like a democracy and allow a free and fair plebiscite on independence for all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

A TRIBUTE TO MAYOR ROBERTA COOPER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mayor Roberta Cooper for her 26 years of dedicated service to the City of Hayward, California. On June 15, 2006, the City of Hayward will host a farewell dinner to honor her as she retires from office at the end of her term on June 6, 2006.

The Mayor has been instrumental in the initiation and development of many projects in Hayward including a new City Hall, B Street Marketplace and Parking Structure, Albertson's Shopping Center, Atherton Place Condominiums, City Walk Condominiums, Fire Station 1 at C and Main, and the Theater Complex at Foothill & B coming in 2007. All of the mentioned projects were related to Hayward's downtown redevelopment.

Other areas of Hayward have also benefited from her exemplary leadership including the development of Fire Station 9, Oliver Sports Park of Hayward, Eden Shores Development, Harder Road Railroad Under-crossing, the Twin Bridges neighborhood and the accompanying Mission Foothills of Hayward Golf Course and the Route 238 Corridor Improvement Project.

Mayor Cooper is a longtime resident of Hayward. Prior to assuming the helm of the city's leadership as Mayor, she was an educator. She taught in the Hayward Unified School District from 1968 until her retirement in 1994.

She was elected to the Hayward City Council in 1988 and re-elected to the Council in 1992. She was elected Mayor in April 1994, re-elected in 1998 and reelected again in March 2002.

Mayor Cooper serves on many public agencies focused on economic development, capital improvement, transportation, the environment and city governance. She involves herself in community service with equal interest and dedication. A host of non-profit organizations have benefited from her leadership, such as The Kids Breakfast Club, Literacy Plus Project, Hayward's Human Services Commission and the Eden Youth Center.

She lists among her personal pet projects the Hayward New Start, a Tattoo Removal Program, the Hayward Honor Band, and cHime-In.

I join Mayor Cooper's constituents, friends and admirers in congratulating her on a job well done. She plans to use her time to garden, read, learn to use her home computer and travel. I hope she accomplishes all this and much more as she embarks on a well-deserved retirement.

Thank you to my friend, Bertie Cooper, for all you have done to make a difference in our community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MARK A. PLEASANTS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Mark A. Pleasants, currently

the Non-Commissioned Officer of Broadcast Production, assigned to the 99th Communications Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

Since joining the United States Air Force in 1990, Sergeant Pleasants has reached impressive degrees of achievement and has a distinguished record of service. Having served in such foreign locales as Portugal, Germany and San Vito, Sergeant Pleasants has earned a number of accolades. In 1994 and 1995, while serving at Kaiserlautern in Germany, Sergeant Pleasants earned two Air Force level awards for his reporting and won the regional and worldwide Air Force talent competitions as a singer and announcer. In 1996, while assigned to the Air Force News Agency's Regional News Center at Ramstein Air Base, he was a key member pioneering the two most award winning shows in Air Force history; Air Force Prime Time and AFNEWS: On Assignment. Sergeant Pleasants was reassigned to the 99th Communications Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada in 2003 where he immediately applied his expertise in Television and Production to revamp an inactive television program called Eye on Nellis. Through his efforts, the program developed into a monthly 30-minute news show reaching 14 million homes around the world and has won recognition as Best Commander's Access Channel in the Air Force.

Sergeant Pleasants' career is celebrated by a number of awards and commendations, having won the Air Force Commendation Medal three times, the Air Force Achievement Medal four times, Air Force Level Recognition thirteen times, and the National Defense Medal twice.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Sergeant Mark A. Pleasants for his distinguished record of service and his commitment to providing quality news service to the Air Force community. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING DR. ANN VOGEL

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Ann Vogel of New Ulm, Minnesota, on receiving the Sertoma Club's Service to Mankind Award.

The Sertoma Club is an organization that strives to better people's lives through philanthropic activities. Since 1960, the Sertoma Foundation has positively influenced the lives of its members and hundreds of communities internationally. Sertoma primarily focuses on service projects assisting the more than 50 million people with speech, hearing and language disorders. Sertoma also sponsors community projects to promote freedom and democracy, to assist youth, and to benefit a variety of other local community needs. Every year Sertoma clubs raise more than \$20 million for these local community service projects.

The Sertoma Club also recognizes the efforts of citizens who volunteer their time and service to the local community. The Service to Mankind Award, the highest honor a non-Sertoma member can receive, is awarded to an individual who has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

This year, The Service to Mankind Award was given to Dr. Ann Vogel by the New Ulm Sertoma Club. Dr. Vogel devotes her time to working at the Open Door Health Center in Mankato, a non-profit organization that seeks to provide care to uninsured and underinsured people in southern Minnesota. Additionally, Dr. Vogel led the funding drive for the Friends of German Park, a group dedicated to the redevelopment of the community area; while also dedicating her time as a storyteller with Bavarian Blast. Her community involvement also includes volunteering at Heritagefest and the Oak Hills Assisted Living Center.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Ann Vogel for receiving this commendable award. Her commitment to public service is greatly appreciated and an inspiration to all.

SIKHS CELEBRATE VAISAKHI, REVELATION OF SIKH NATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Sikhs on celebrating their important holiday, Vaisakhi Day, around the world. There were marches in Washington, Vancouver, London, and many other cities around the world. There will be a parade April 29 in New York, the annual Sikh Day event.

Vaisakhi Day marks the revelation of the Sikh Nation as a distinct entity by guru Gobind Singh in 1699. At that time, he proclaimed the Sikhs sovereign. Today, Sikhs struggle to reclaim this lost birthright as Indian troops occupy their country, Khalistan. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Sikhs declared themselves independent in 1987, but Indian troops to the tune of half a million continue to occupy Khalistan.

Recently, several Sikh activists have been arrested for simply making speeches, raising flags, or holding peaceful marches in support of Khalistan. Is this democracy, Mr. Speaker? Is this how a free country conducts itself?

Mr. Speaker, without the most basic freedoms, such as freedom of speech and self-determination, how can the Sikhs hope to survive as a people? In India, it is now illegal in many parts of the country to join another religion besides Hinduism. The intent to establish a Hindu state is clear.

We can help put an end to these practices as we congratulate the Sikhs on Vaisakhi Day. We must cut off our aid and our trade with India. Although there is a burgeoning middle class, half the country lives under the international poverty line. Losing our dollars would have a significant effect on India. And we must stand up for the principles on which America was founded.

About the same time in the calendar as Vaisakhi Day is the birthday of Thomas Jefferson, who wrote that government is legitimately founded on "the consent of the governed" and that "whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

Clearly, that time has come for too many of the minorities of South Asia—the Sikhs of

Khalistan, the Muslims in Kashmir, the predominantly Christian Naga community, and so many others. Let us help them to achieve the basic right of self-determination by putting our Congress on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite in these places on the question of independence. By doing so, we will be helping to achieve freedom, stability, peace, dignity, and prosperity for all the peoples and nations of South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I request the permission of the House to add the Council of Khalistan's press release and open letter on Vaisakhi to the RECORD at this time.

SIKHS WILL CELEBRATE VAISAKHI DAY

APRIL 14

Happy Vaisakhi Day to you and your family and the Khalsa Panth. On April 14, the Sikh Nation will be observing the 307th anniversary of the day Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa Panth. The Guru granted sovereignty to the Sikh Nation, saying "In Grief Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi." We must remind ourselves of our heritage by raising slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" and beginning a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan. Whoever is honest and dedicated in leading that Shantmai Morcha deserves our support. Every morning and evening we recite, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

The flame of freedom continues to burn brightly in the heart of the Sikh Nation. No force can suppress it. Within the past few days, Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal announced that they are uniting for sovereignty for Khalistan. This was met with chants of "Khalistan Zindabad." Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, whose own Legislative Assembly proclaimed the sovereignty of Punjab when he cancelled the water agreements, has ordered the leaders of Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal placed under police watch for their speeches. Kanwarpal Singh Dhani of the Guru Asra Trust, and Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan were arrested this month for making speeches in support of Khalistan. Dr. Chohan said, "Khalistan will be free." In January of last year and again in June of last year Sikh activists, mostly from Dal Khalsa, were arrested merely for raising the Khalistani flag and making pro-Khalistan speeches. During his recent visit to India, President George W. Bush walked over to Sukhbir Singh Badal and said, "Give my best wishes and regards to your people from the people of America." Even the President of the United States is aware of our situation. "I wish you could visit Punjab," said Sukhbir Singh. When Khalistan is free, that will happen. President Bush has said, "Freedom is the birthright of every man, woman, and child." These events show that the movement to free our homeland is on the rise. It has gotten the attention of the world. The movement to liberate our homeland is stronger than it has ever been and it has frightened the Indian regime. Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to the liberation of Khalistan.

The Indian government is reacting to the rising tide of freedom for the Sikh Nation. Earlier this year, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh apologized to the Sikh Nation for the Delhi massacres of November 1984 that killed over 20,000 Sikhs. It is good that he apologized and it clearly shows India's responsibility, but what good does it do the Sikh Nation? Where are the apologies for the Golden Temple attack and the other atrocities? Where is the compensation for the victims' families?

In January, Sikh farmers were expelled from Uttaranchal Pradesh and their land was

seized. They were beaten up by the police. Their homes were bulldozed by paratroopers. Their homes in many cases were built using their life savings and by their own hands. We condemn this act of state terrorism by the government of Uttaranchal Pradesh. As you know, Sikhs are prohibited from buying land in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. Now Uttaranchal Pradesh joins that list. Yet there are no restrictions on land ownership in Punjab by non-Sikhs. People from anywhere can buy land in Punjab, including people from Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. India is trying to subvert Khalistan's independence by overrunning Punjab with non-Sikhs while keeping Sikhs from escaping the brutal repression in Punjab. It is incumbent on the Sikh diaspora to free Khalistan. We must redouble our efforts. That is the only way to keep these atrocities from continuing and to protect the Sikh Nation and the Sikh religion.

Any organization that sincerely supports Kalistan deserves the support of the Sikh Nation. However, the Sikh Nation needs leadership that is honest, sincere, consistent, and dedicated to the cause of Sikh freedom. But we should only support sincere, dedicated, honest leaders. Dal Khalsa deserves the praise of the Sikh nation and I call on every Sikh to support them and every other organization that is working to liberate Khalistan.

The Council of Khalistan has stood strongly and consistently for liberating our homeland, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. For over 18 years we have led this fight while others were trying to divert the resources and the attention of the Sikh Nation away from the issue of freedom in a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Yet Khalistan is the only way that Sikhs will be able to live in freedom, peace, prosperity, and dignity.

The Sikhs in Punjab have suffered enormous repression at the hands of the Indian regime in the last 22 years. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Inderjit Singh Jaijee and Bibi Baljit Kaur of the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) told me that if the Sikhs outside India had not exposed the atrocities of the Indian regime, they could have killed ten times as many Sikhs. Another 52,268 of our brothers and sisters are being held as political prisoners, according to MASR. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Over 50,000 Sikh youth were picked up from their houses, tortured, murdered in police custody, then secretly cremated as "unidentified bodies." Their remains were never even given to their families! How can Sikhs have any freedom living under a government that would do these things? India should be ashamed of the genocide it has committed against Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities.

Sikhs can never forgive or forget the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple and 39 other historic Gurdwaras throughout Punjab. Over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered in those attacks, known as Operation Blue Star, including Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and over 100 Sikh religious students ages 8-13 who were taken out into the courtyard and shot. These attacks accelerated the Sikh independence movement and deepened the desire for independence in the hearts of Sikhs, a fire that burns brightly in the hearts of the Sikh Nation to this day.

The Akali Dal conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikhs during June 1984 in Punjab. Among those who conspired with the government, according to Chakravarty: Web of Indian Secularism, were Dr. Chohan, Ganga Singh Dhillon, and Didar Singh Bains.

It appears the Indian regime is even willing to arrest its own agents to suppress the movement for Khalistan! Now Badal and Chief Minister Amarinder Singh have been accusing each other of being tied in with "terrorists." These leaders view support for Khalistan as terrorism, as the Indian government does. They have shown where their loyalties lie. How will these so-called Sikh leaders account for themselves? Remember the words of former Jathedar of tile Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." It seems that Badal and Amarinder are not Sikhs.

Never forget that the Akal Takht Sahib and Darbar Sahib and the present Akali and Congress leadership are under the control of the Indian government, the same Indian government that has murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs in the past twenty years. These institutions will remain under the control of the Indian regime until we free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation and oppression and sever our relations with the New Delhi government.

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's memo calling Sikhs "a criminal tribe." What a shame for Home Minister Patel and the Indian government to issue this memorandum when the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India.

There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India. Our moment of freedom is closer than ever. Let us work to make certain that we shake ourselves loose from the yoke of Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity.

Sincerely,

GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

OPPOSING PRESIDENT BUSH'S MARCH TO WAR IN IRAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Iran Freedom Support Act. I certainly share my colleagues' concerns about Iran's apparent push to develop nuclear weapons, but I oppose H.R. 282 because I fear President Bush will use this legislation to lead America into an unnecessary war with Iran. This President used this same pattern in his last march to war in Iraq.

The resolution calls upon the United States to request that the United Nations Security Council impose sanctions against Iran. President Bush used Iraq's violation of similar sanctions to justify his initiation of the ill-fated Iraq War.

The legislation also authorizes President Bush to fund the Iranian opposition to radical Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad despite the fact that American support for pro-Western leaders has often backfired. In fact it's backfired in Iran before! America's historic support for the Shah propelled former radical leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to power. Is it any wonder then that the Washington Post recently reported that pro-democracy forces in Iran do not want U.S. funding since their association

with America taints their credibility within their country?

The United States spent millions of dollars in Iraq to fund the opposition to Saddam Hussein. In return, the Bush Administration received bogus information from informants that claimed that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. The Administration then used this information to scare America into war against Iraq.

Finally, H.R. 282 advocates regime change and I find it difficult to believe Iran will cooperate with our diplomatic proposals if they understand our ultimate goal to be the overthrow of their government.

America can prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons through peaceful and thoughtful diplomacy. But this legislation sets us on the road to war rather than diplomacy. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in voting against it.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLBY RUPERT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colby Rupert for his heroic actions following an accident on Interstate 15 on March 18, 2006.

Colby and an ambulance crew had initially responded to a pickup truck that had run off the road. While responding to the emergency, a bus heading southbound on I-15 struck their rescue unit, virtually destroying the vehicle. Colby and his partner were still in their vehicle at the time of the collision and received painful injuries as a result. Nonetheless, Paramedic Rupert administered aid to a number of passengers on the bus. He carried a generator and the Jaws of Life from the crashed rescue truck to the Greyhound bus while dragging his injured leg. Despite his serious injuries, he ignored his wounds and aided injured persons in a desperate and critical accident scene. Only after assistance arrived sometime later did Colby receive medical treatment. He had to be literally forced to stop assisting others so he could receive medical attention.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Colby Rupert for his heroic actions. Colby's unwavering courage speaks volumes about his character. His dismissal of his own injuries serves as an example of the dedication our First Responders show in their service to their fellow citizens.

CONGRATULATING JULIE STEVENSON

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Julie Stevenson of Worthington, Minnesota, on receiving the 2006 Athena Award from the Worthington Travelodge.

The Athena Award is presented each year to a woman who has demonstrated excellence, initiative and creativity in her profession.

This award recognizes one woman's time and energy put in to improving the lives of her peers. This woman also acts as a mentor for other women in the community.

Mrs. Julie Stevenson received this award for her many contributions to the community of Worthington. She has served as the executive director of the Southwest Minnesota Chapter of the American Red Cross and she has volunteered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, United Way, YMCA, Youth Area Baseball Association, Junior Achievement, Nobles County Integration Collaborative and the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce. Currently, at the Minnesota West Campus, Mrs. Stevenson has helped bring the college and the community together through a variety of programs. These include the Winter Wonderland and Golf the Links at Minnesota West and Kids College. She has been a co-host for a United Way telethon as well as a trainer in a teen asset building workshop at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mrs. Stevenson for receiving this commendable award. Her commitment to service has helped to grow many individuals and to strengthen the community.

**HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
WILLIAM A. KOCH TO PRESERVE
THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BOY-
HOOD HOME IN LINCOLN CITY,
INDIANA**

HON. MICHAEL E. SODREL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. SODREL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an upcoming meeting of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (ALBC) at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in my district and to honor the achievements of the deceased William A. Koch and Congressman Winfield K. Denton, for their contributions to preserving the memory of Abraham Lincoln's early life in Indiana by establishing this national park.

On May 1, 2006, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission will meet in Lincoln City, Indiana, at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, established through legislation signed into law by President John F. Kennedy on February 19, 1962. This national park is the site of the farm on which Abraham Lincoln spent 14 years of his early life, a time when Lincoln grew physically and intellectually into a man. This was a place where he laughed with his father, cried over the death of his mother, read books, and faced the adversities of life at that time. It is only fitting that the ALBC meet at this site while planning events for the celebration in 2009 of Lincoln's birth and, while there, to honor the family of the man who contributed so much to preserve the legacy of President Lincoln's early life, William A. Koch.

A local, influential businessman, Mr. Koch conceived the idea of a national park to preserve Lincoln's legacy in the late 1950s. With the cooperation and leadership of Congressman Winfield K. Denton, he worked tirelessly and patiently through studies, hearings, and debates. And, in 1962, the idea that Bill Koch

developed and nurtured was accomplished. The transfer of the Nancy Hanks part of the Lincoln Memorial to the Department of the Interior was completed.

To William Koch, whose widow and children carry on his mission, we owe a debt of gratitude, for without his vision and perseverance, the memory of Lincoln's Indiana years would be greatly diminished and lost on future generations. Today, visitors from around the world can visit his boyhood home to learn what life was like for Lincoln and other early pioneers in the Midwest.

**INTRODUCTION OF U.S.-CHINA
ENGAGEMENT ACT**

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the U.S. China Engagement Act of 2006 with Congressman RICK LARSEN. The goal of our bill is to ensure American students and businesses are equipped to compete with China throughout the 21st century.

The U.S. China Engagement Act of 2006 provides grants for Chinese language instruction programs for American students, expands the U.S. diplomatic presence in China, and establishes new trade offices which support our U.S. exports to China, ensuring our small and medium size businesses are able to compete in Asia.

This legislation will help give our American students the tools to compete in a global marketplace. By one measure, China is now the world's second largest economy. According to the Asian Conference, 50,000 American students are studying Chinese versus 110 million Chinese students studying English. The U.S. China Engagement Act of 2006 will provide resources to primary, secondary and post-secondary schools so that all levels of our educational system can provide the proper exposure to the Chinese language and economy.

The U.S. China Engagement Act of 2006 triples funding to the State Department for public diplomacy in China and authorizes the creation of a new consulate and ten "diplomatic presence posts" in larger Chinese cities. It also increases the U.S. contribution to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, a 21 Member Organization whose goal is to promote free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region. America must embrace a strong diplomatic partnership to increase the chance our children will enjoy a stable, economically prosperous and peaceful future with China.

Today, China produces more steel than the U.S.; it has more cell phone users and is building its own space station. Hundreds of U.S. companies from McDonald's to Motorola are heavily invested in the Chinese market. China has bought several airplanes from Boeing and Chinese purchases of other U.S. exports are climbing at a rate of 15 percent a year. At her present rate of growth, China's economy has the potential to become larger than America's. The U.S. China Engagement Act takes steps to help small and medium size American businesses enter the China market

by increasing resources to the Foreign Commercial Service Office of the Commerce Department and creating new export promotion programs.

The U.S. China Engagement Act is an important step in addressing the most critical relationship of the 21st century. It is vital that Americans be prepared for this relationship. We must be prepared diplomatically, educationally, and economically. Our students must have the ability to both culturally understand our competition while also having the ability to communicate with them in their language. This bill will give American students and American businesses the tools to compete in the new and expanding market of China.

I want to thank my co-chair of the U.S.-China Working Group, Congressman RICK LARSEN, for being the lead co-sponsor on this legislation. And I want to thank Senators LIEBERMAN and ALEXANDER who have a companion bill. I look forward to working with them on these important issues surrounding China.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT
SEARS**

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob "Chief" Sears for his 40 years of service in the Fire Service.

Bob Sears has vigilantly served in a number of different capacities in the fire service in several different cities. Sears, a graduate of the National Fire Academy in Maryland, began his career in 1951 and was promoted to Fire Chief of the Richfield Township Fire Department in Ohio in 1960, at that time he was the youngest Fire Chief in the State of Ohio. He subsequently served for 5 years as the Fire Chief for Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation in California. Bob has also served over 21 years as Boulder Cities Fire Chief, while in this role he designed innovative programs which increase the efficiency of the Department in terms of firefighting capabilities, community awareness, and staff management.

Chief Sears is very active in the community, donating his time to many organizations; Bob is currently on the Board of Directors, Past President, Life Member and has served as interim Executive Director of the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce. He has also served as President of the Nevada Fire Chiefs Association and Charter President of the Southern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association. He has served as chairman for the American Heart Association's Nevada Affiliate, the local Salvation Army, and is a charter member of the Boulder Sumise Rotary Club. Chief Sears also serves on the Military Selection Committee for the United States Service Academies representing Nevada's Congressional Delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Bob Sears for his long career in the Fire Service and for his dedication to many different community organizations. His record of professional service and devotion to the many organizations he was involved with serves as an inspiration to us all. I wish him the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO PRESTONSBURG, KENTUCKY SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the staff of the Prestonsburg Social Security Office for their strong, effective, and compassionate service to the people of Kentucky.

Social Security plays an important role in the lives of more Americans than any other federal program. Whether providing a Social Security number for a newborn baby, mailing a check to a retired worker, or helping a disabled individual receive benefits, the Social Security Administration touches the lives of just about everyone.

The field office in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, is a shining example for this massive federal agency. The Prestonsburg staff consistently goes beyond the call of duty to provide valuable benefits to the people of Kentucky. Because of this unwavering commitment to helping others, the Social Security Administration recognized the Prestonsburg Office as the Best Level I Field Office in the Atlanta Region for fiscal year 2005.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank the staff at the Prestonsburg Social Security Office for their hard work and dedication to serving the people of Kentucky. These fine Americans are an inspiration to us all, and I salute them for their commitment to helping others.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letters in support of H. Res. 737, a bill "Recognizing the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month" that falls in April of each year. The bill was reported to the House favorably by the Committee on Government Reform and passed the House on April 6, 2006 by a recorded vote of 423-1. The documents I am submitting include letters of support for the bill from the Texas Credit Union League, the Texas State Securities Board, the Credit Union National Association, and the National Association of Mortgage Brokers.

TEXAS CREDIT UNION LEAGUE,
Dallas, TX, April 10, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: On behalf of the Texas Credit Union League, I would like to thank you for your work to pass H. Res. 737 and your commitment to improving financial literacy in our country. Credit Unions see financial education as a cornerstone of financial independence. Knowledge of financial products, with their benefits along with their disadvantages, allows con-

sumers to make better decisions and improve their lives and the lives of their families.

Recognizing Financial Literacy month helps in the effort to educate our citizens about financial products and services. We look forward to working with you on this important issue in the future and applaud your leadership in bringing it to the forefront of the Congressional agenda.

Respectfully,

DICK ENSWEILER
President and CEO,
Texas Credit Union League.

TEXAS STATE SECURITIES BOARD,
Austin, TX, April 13, 2006.

Re House Resolution 737.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
Congressman,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: Congratulations on being awarded the Federal Legislator Award from the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy. Texas investors are fortunate to have someone in Washington who understands the need for financial education and awareness and works so hard to help address that need.

I also want to thank you for cosponsoring H. Res. 737, which supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. As the Resolution details, the need for financial education in the United States has never been greater. By teaching our state's investors about personal finance, we can encourage Texans to focus on saving, investing, and home ownership and help them avoid investment fraud.

The Texas State Securities Board will join in celebrating "Financial Literacy Month" by reaching out to Texans of all ages. As you know, it is important to make individuals more knowledgeable about personal finance, the capital markets, investment choices and fraud. Our staff continues to make presentations throughout the state to help educate Texans about investing and preparing for retirement.

Enclosed are brochures both in English and Spanish that exemplify our investor education initiatives. We look forward to working with you in the future regarding this and other important securities-related issues.

Very truly yours,

DENISE VOIGT CRAWFORD,
Securities Commissioner.

CREDIT UNION NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HINOJOSA: On behalf of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), which represents 87 million credit union members, I would like to thank you for your introduction of H. Res. 737, which supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

CUNA strongly supports H. Res. 737 which supports financial literacy initiatives by calling on schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, government entities on the federal, state, and local levels, and citizens to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

To aid in this endeavor, CUNA establishes a yearly National Credit Union Youth Week, this year scheduled to take place April 23rd-29th. To date, 278 credit unions have committed to participating in CUNA's Youth Savings Challenge for that week, and are estimating to tally 50,000 youth deposits valued at \$3.6 million.

CUNA provides financial literacy resources to credit unions year-round to assist young people and help them manage their own money wisely, and has partnered with the

National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) and the Cooperative Extension Service to provide schools with free workbooks on financial literacy that can easily fit into an existing curriculum. Many credit unions have volunteered their time to teach the materials to better prepare students for college, covering issues such as credit cards, interest, minimum payments, and checking accounts. Additionally, CUNA recently developed a program called "Thrive by Five" which offers free materials on our website for parents to work with pre-school, aged children on basic financial concepts such as spending and saving.

Again, CUNA and its member credit unions strongly support H. Res. 737, as well as your leadership with the Congressional Caucus on Financial and Economic Literacy. We look forward to working with you and greatly appreciate your efforts to bring financial literacy to students nationwide.

Sincerely,

DANIEL A. MICA,
President & CEO.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
MORTGAGE BROKERS,
McLean, VA, April 7, 2006.

Rep. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

REPRESENTATIVE HINOJOSA: On behalf of the 27,000 members of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers (NAMB), I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your work on House Resolution 737, supporting the goals of National Financial Literacy Month.

At a time when home buyers and consumers in general face the hurdles of a complicated marketplace and predatory lenders, your work educating consumers is invaluable. As you know, an educated consumer is a protected consumer.

Too often, home buyers and other consumers are neither educated nor protected when it comes to making sound financial decisions. As H. Res. 737 makes clear, smart financial management is the result of a lifetime of sound spending habits and financial education. Encouraging consumers to develop these good habits is essential to ensuring strong credit and a healthy financial outlook. NAMB is dedicated to maintaining the highest commitment to consumer education on mortgage and home-buying issues.

NAMB works to improve the financial understanding of consumers across the country in a variety of ways. First, our work with Freddie Mac's CreditSmart and CreditSmart Español has helped lower-income workers and families better manage their financial futures. Second, we inspire a commitment to consumer education in the next generation of mortgage brokers through our work with Delta Epsilon Chi (DECA). DECA is an international association of high school and college students studying business and entrepreneurship.

NAMB also works closely with the financial services industry as part of its on-going commitment to consumer education, and to helping all Americans realize the American dream of homeownership. For example, NAMB has created the Industry Partners Program to make it easier for a wide range of financial professionals to collaborate with mortgage brokers and bring greater professionalism to the industry.

NAMB applauds your commitment to this issue and your dedication on behalf of consumers in Texas and across the nation. We salute your efforts to improve the lives and financial futures of hard-working Americans.

Sincerely,

JIM NABORS II, CRMS,
President,
National Association of Mortgage Brokers.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC
CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada recognize their 65 years of distinguished service to the community.

The Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada was formed to carry on charitable work in the fields of religion, education and social services. Catholic Charities is one of the largest nonprofit social service providers in the state of Nevada, offering the most comprehensive range of human services which include Adoption Services, Child Care Services, St. Vincent Lied Dining Facility, Immigration Services, Migration and Refugee Services, Residential Services, Senior Services and Thrift Stores. The agency now encompasses many diverse programs that are designed to aid individuals in gaining self-sufficiency, independence and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada for their 65 years of admirable service. Their tireless work to provide a wide array of services to the people of southern Nevada is a noble mission and I wish them the best in their continued efforts.

U.S. FAMILY HEALTH PLAN
MARKS 25 YEARS OF CARING
FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES FAMILIES

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on this, the 26th day of April 2006, the U.S. Family Health Plan celebrates its commitment and service to the nation's military health system with 25 years caring for our military families. Through the years, the U.S. Family Health Plan has been a valued partner with the U.S. Department of Defense by continuing to serve nearly 100,000 military beneficiaries today.

U.S. Family Health Plan's roots date back to 1981 when the Omnibus U.S. Reconciliation Act designated 10 public health hospitals as U.S. Treatment Facilities to provide care for the uniformed services through and agreement with DoD. In 1993, that designation evolved into a fully at-risk managed healthcare plan named U.S. Family Health Plan. The Plan's popularity grew in the regions where it was offered. In 1996, the National Defense Authorization Act designated the U.S. Treatment Facilities as TRICARE Prime Designated Providers and made the U.S. Family Plan Health a permanent part of the military health system.

The U.S. Family Health Plan is a proud member of the TRICARE program. It has distinguished itself by consistently earning the highest beneficiary satisfaction ratings among all TRICARE providers. The plan is

administered by some of this nation's finest health care institutions, including John Hopkins (Maryland), Brighton Marine Health Center (Massachusetts), Martin's Point Health Care (Maine), St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers (New York), CHRISTUS Health (Texas), and Pacific Medical Centers (Washington State).

Please join me in congratulating the U.S. Family Health Plan on their 25 years of service to our nation's military families and for their outstanding contributions to military health care.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 777

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced H. Res. 777, which would establish a month as Haitian-American Heritage Month.

I think it is important to recognize the many influences of the Haitian people to the history and culture of the United States.

Since our Revolutionary War, Haitians have allied themselves with the United States, sharing our common values of democratic governance and self-determination. While their country was still bound by servitude, Haitian freemen fought alongside U.S. troops at the Siege of Savannah in 1779, even as their own fate remained uncertain at home.

It was eight years after the end of our revolution that Haitians rose up to fight for their own independence from France—a struggle for freedom that was to play a key role in U.S. history.

In an effort to subjugate the Haitian people and suppress Haiti's revolution, France assembled in Haiti the largest expeditionary force it had ever sent to the Americas, composed of its very finest troops. However, by 1803, France had lost most of these troops and expended countless resources. As a result, instead of fortifying and exploiting its position in Louisiana, France was forced to sell it to the United States. In what became known as the Louisiana Purchase, this territory now comprises 22.3 percent of the United States.

Haiti's independence, which was officially declared in 1804, made it the first black republic in the world; the second democracy in our hemisphere; and the only country born of a successful slave revolt.

Haitians and their descendants have been instrumental in numerous American achievements in the sciences, in the arts, in our culture and in our commerce.

During the month of May, these contributions and accomplishments will be commemorated in Miami, Florida as part of community-wide, Haitian-American heritage celebrations. These events correspond with numerous Haitian holidays that are observed throughout the month of May.

In light of these events, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the passage of H. Res. 777 as an appropriate way for our government to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Haiti to our nation.

H. RES. 777

Whereas freemen from the French colony of Saint Domingue, now the Republic of Haiti, fought alongside the United States Continental Army at the Siege of Savannah in 1779;

Whereas Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, a Haitian, built the first permanent settlement of what later became the city of Chicago, Illinois, in 1779;

Whereas the significant loss of life and financial burden of the failed efforts to quell Haiti's revolution prompted France to sell Louisiana to the United States in 1803, territory that now comprises 22.3 percent of the United States;

Whereas, on January 1, 1804, Haiti declared its independence from France to become the world's first Black republic and the second democracy after the United States;

Whereas Major Joseph Savary, a Haitian, was the first Black Major in the United States Army, and led the Second Battalion of Freemen of Color at the Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815, under then-General Andrew Jackson, who became the first Governor of the Territory of Florida in 1821;

Whereas, in 1889, Frederic Douglass, the period's foremost spokesman on human rights and prominent leader of the anti-slavery movement in the United States, became the first United States Minister and Consul-General to Haiti;

Whereas the longest occupancy of a foreign state by American troops was in Haiti, circa 1915-1934;

Whereas an estimated 1,200,000 persons of Haitian descent now live throughout the United States;

Whereas Haitians and their descendants have contributed greatly to the arts and sciences, including John James Audubon, the acclaimed naturalist and wildlife artist who inspired the American conservation society that bears his namesake, and W.E.B. DuBois, the Haitian-American author and political activist, who became one of the most prominent, intellectual leaders of African-American society during the twentieth century;

Whereas the close proximity of Haiti to American shores, in conjunction with our common bond of mutual values and commitment to democracy, ensures lasting comity of nations and continued trade and diplomatic relations;

Whereas Haiti—the only republic to rise from a successful slave rebellion—inspires pride, solidarity, and self-reliance;

Whereas the last Sunday of May is commemorated in Haiti as Mother's Day;

Whereas the 18th of May is Flag Day, the most celebrated holiday in Haiti, and is observed by people of Haitian descent throughout the world;

Whereas in Miami, Florida, home to the largest Haitian-American population in the United States, there are numerous cultural events and celebrations planned during the month of May to honor Haitian heritage; and

Whereas May is an appropriate month to establish a Haitian-American Heritage Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) "Haitian-American Heritage Month" be established; and

(2) the people of the United States should observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 1

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To resume hearings to examine the economic and environmental issues associated with coal gasification technology and on implementation of the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 addressing coal gasification.

SD-366

MAY 2

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the implementation of the peanut provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

SH-216

Budget

To hold hearings to examine S. 2381, to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide line item rescission authority.

SD-608

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine Federal Bureau of Investigation oversight.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the pro-

posed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.

SR-222

3:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.

SR-232A

4 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain judicial and executive nominations.

SD-226

5:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.

SR-222

MAY 3

9 a.m.

Armed Services

SeaPower Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Armed Services

Airland Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.

SR-232A

Aging

To hold hearings to examine the future of social services for older Americans.

SD-106

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Government Printing Office, Congressional Budget Office, and Office of Compliance.

SD-138

11:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Strategic Forces Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.

SR-222

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.

SR-222

MAY 4

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Dirk Kempthorne, of Idaho, to be Secretary of the Interior.

SD-366

MAY 5

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.

SR-222

MAY 10

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the implementation of the sugar provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

SR-328A

MAY 17

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine accelerating the adoption of health information technology.

Room to be announced

MAY 24

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine the progress of construction on the Capitol Visitor Center.

SD-138

JUNE 14

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine alternative energy technologies.

Room to be announced